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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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IMMIGRANTS BIN AND GONE AT BUS DEPOT

Wheelie quick escape almost rubbished

A GROUP of illegal immigrants hid in a delivery of wheelie bins to Maidstone council to get into Britain.

About 20 people from Iraq and Iran burst out of a lorry as it pulled into the Arriva bus depot in Maidstone town centre.

Stunned witnesses saw the illegal immigrants punch a hole in the roof of the truck and then clamber down its back before running away.

Staff at the bus depot called the police and tried to hold one of the men until officers arrived, but he struggled so violently they were forced to let him go.

An Arriva spokesman said: "Staff at

BY JON COATES

our depot attempted to apprehend one individual who had come out of the roof of the lorry, but because he put up such a struggle they feared for his safety as well as their own and let him go. We are unsure if this person was subsequently stopped by the police."

The delivery was meant for the council office next door.

When the lorry arrived there its back doors were open with the bins still inside but there was no sign of the human cargo.

Staff at the bus depot called the police to report the incident on Friday, June 20, just after 8am.

Police said patrols were sent to College Road in Maidstone, where four people were arrested after a search of the area at about 8.30am.

A Mid Kent police spokeswoman said: "A 20-year-old man from Iran, wanted by Liverpool police, was transferred to Liverpool City Magistrates Court."

"A 20-year-old man from Iraq, a 16-year-old boy from Iran and a 30-year-old man from Iran were released into the custody of the Immigration Service."

Police are still hunting for the rest of the group.

A Maidstone council spokesman confirmed that the consignment of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture: PILL HODGKINSON

CELEBRATIONS ARE DIVERSE

A COLOURFUL parade will descend on the town centre next week to launch the sixth Maidstone Mela festival.

Pupils from Archbishop Courtenay, St Francis and St Michael's Primary schools will take part in the procession on Thursday, July 10, to kick off the celebration of diversity through music, food and dance.

The parade will be led by the Four by Four Bhangra dhol drummers, starting outside Marks and Spencer in Week Street at 10.30am. It will continue down Fremlin Walk before turning left into Earl Street and finishing back at Week Street.

Thousands of people are expected to attend this year's Mela, which is organised in partnership by Maidstone council and the North West Kent Racial Equality Council, and will take place in Mote Park on Sunday, September 14, between 1pm and 6pm.

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Petition to show unpopularity of lorries in village

■ BY VICKY GRANTHAM

CAMPAIGNERS trying to stop heavy goods vehicles from using a small rural village as a rat-run will petition Kent County Council.

Villagers have tried to ban trucks weighing more than 17 tonnes from using two medieval bridges in Yalding for the last 11 years.

They hope the petition, which already has 150 signatures, will prove support for the ban outweighs opposition from local businesses.

Yalding parish councillor Vivienne Robinson said: "We have put a petition in Yalding Post Office which we will be presenting to Kent County Council in September."

Campaign leaders will have a stall for their petition at monthly farmer's markets on Yalding High Street.

They also recently held a rally, Size Matters, on Sunday, June 15.

Ms Robinson said: "The rally was fantastically successful and there was a huge amount of support. People from neighbouring parishes came out in full force too."

Yalding parish council believes large trucks going through the village are a major infringement on safety. In particular on the Twyford Bridge, which has no designated walk area, meaning large vehicles use the entire available space.

A spokeswoman for RW Simpson LTD, a transportation company



BIG PROBLEM: Villagers are campaigning for large lorries to stay out of Yalding

based in Paddock Wood, said: "We have one customer in Yalding who requests us to go to his premises, which is where he stores his goods."

"We act on what our customers want and a ban wouldn't affect us. It would affect them."

A spokesman for Transmec Group, a delivery company, said: "It's an issue for local authorities to deal with. If there is any ban we won't be able to drive there, so if a restriction is introduced on the use of the roads through Yalding we won't drive there."

"As there is no restriction at the moment the roads are for everybody to use. Not just villagers."

Kent County Council sees the problem as part of a wider issue.

KCC spokesman Phil Scrivener said: "We are carrying out a wider review of speed limits across the county on rural roads. We will be considering Yalding's campaign as part of this."

Police arrest Irish terror suspect

A MAN has been arrested in Maidstone by police officers investigating the murder of six men in a terrorist attack in Northern Ireland 14 years ago.

The 45-year-old man, who has not been named, was seized on Saturday with the help of Kent police.

He is now being questioned by detectives from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Serious Crime Branch in Antrim.

The killings took place in O'Toole's bar in Loughinisland, County Down, on June 18, 1994, as drinkers were watch-

ing a World Cup football match. Members of the Protestant terror gang the UVF entered the bar and opened fire, killing six people.

Patsy O'Hare, 35, Adrian Rogan, 34, Dan McCreanor, 59, Eamon Byrne, 39, Barney Green, 87, and Malcolm Jenkinson, 54, lost their lives in the attack.

A PSNI spokeswoman said: "Police have arrested a 45-year-old man in England. The man is currently assisting police with their inquiries at Antrim Serious Crime Suite."

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Indecent child photos case sent to crown court

A MAN accused of taking indecent photographs of children has had his case sent to Maidstone Crown Court.

Neil Porter, 39, of Heath Road in Linton, is charged with 15 offences.

He appeared before magistrates on Wednesday morning for a brief hearing.

Porter will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on July 30, where he will enter a plea.

He was granted unconditional bail until that date.

Paste yourself onto your antique gems

POLICE will be offering the latest crime prevention techniques when the Antiques Roadshow rolls into town today.

The BBC One show is being filmed at Leeds Castle and police officers will be on hand to demonstrate an innovative system called SelectaDNA.

The crime prevention technique uses a paste that carries unique DNA markers, which can be applied to antiques so they can be identified as the owners under UV light.

Mayor's flag unsafe for display on car

THE flag on the Mayor of Maidstone's official car has been banned following health and safety concerns.

The crest, which is about eight inches high and five inches in width, has been taken off the Lexus car because council officials thought it could fall off and hurt other road users.

Council spokesman Roger Adley said: "We are looking at options to put something on the outside and safety is one of the factors we are considering."

Cheaper bus travel

A BUS company has changed its concessionary fares from this week to allow travel in Maidstone, Medway, and Tonbridge and Malling.

Holders of a valid concessionary fares permit will now be able to use NU Venture buses in these areas from 9am on Monday to Friday until the last bus every day. There are no time restrictions on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

For further details about the scheme see www.nu-venture.co.uk.

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Wimbledon's berry good for business

BY CHRIS MURPHY

FOR more than 15 years a farm has been exclusively supplying the world famous strawberries served up at Wimbledon.

Pickers at Hugh Lowe Farms at Mereworth are up early every day to ensure tennis fans get the very best punnets on the planet.

A small army of pickers take to the fields before 5am to gather the harvest of around 100,000 strawberries needed to keep the supplies running to FMC Caterers, the company that sells them at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in SW19.

It takes just 45 minutes by road to reach south-west London from the fields near Maidstone.

They are picked in the morning, sorted in the afternoon and then delivered in time for the following day's matches.

Some 28,000kg of strawberries from the farm will be eaten during the Wimbledon fortnight, which reaches its climax this weekend.

About 8,000 punnets are consumed every day, covered in a total of 7,000 litres of fresh cream.

And the 450,000 expected fans don't seem to be put off by the first price rise in five years of 25p to £2.25 for 10 strawberries, especially as a centre court final ticket is £91.

Farm boss Marion Regan said: "Wimbledon is an iconic British event and the English strawberry season peaks at the same time, which means you could not get a better marriage of fruit and an occasion.

"We have been here as a family farm since 1893 so we know our strawberries by now.

"Kent is wonderful for growing them – it has the right climate and soil that drains nicely. Strawberries don't like getting their feet wet.



SUMMER DELIGHT: Marion Regan of Hugh Lowe Farms is proud to be the only supplier of strawberries at Wimbledon

"This is not called the Garden of England for nothing.

"We are able to deliver them very quickly, which makes them very fresh and they are eaten within a day.

"FMC want the very best strawberries every year so each year they say come and talk to us and see if we can do it for another year, which

we are really happy to do.

"The thing about the whole strawberry business is that you are only as good as the last load you sent."

Spectators at Wimbledon fortnight also get through 300,000 cups of tea and coffee, 190,000 sandwiches, 150,000 glasses of Pimm's and 30,000 portions of fish and chips.

Determination gives birth to real happiness

A WOMAN in her 50s who took out ads on London buses in her search for an egg donor has given birth to a baby girl.

Linda Weeks, 55, from Maidstone, and husband Richard, had the baby at the weekend. They have named her Katy.

The couple had spent 14 years trying for a baby, including two attempts to conceive by IVF.

In a last ditch attempt to have a baby, they spent £2,000 on 50 adverts on London buses, which said: "We'll never be Mummy and Daddy unless a wonderful woman aged 36 or under can help us by donating some of her eggs.

"You are our only chance of happiness."

The donor who came forward was Mrs Weeks' last opportunity for fertility treatment, which cannot continue after a woman reaches 55.

The donor has never met the Weeks.

Billionaire wants to club together

A BUSINESSMAN from the county town wants to invest £20 million into his favourite football club in a bid to breathe new life into it.

Peter Cullum, 57, the richest man in Kent, has revealed he wants to invest in Norwich City Football Club with the hope of appointing new players.

Mr Cullum, from Maidstone, who is one of the wealthiest men in Britain and said to be worth around £1.7 billion, approached celebrity cook Delia Smith and her husband Michael Wynn Jones, who are joint majority shareholders, with an informal offer in October 2007.

The executive chairman of the Towergate Partnership wants to become a majority shareholder and possibly make some changes to the board to create an "exciting strategy for the club".

No deal has been confirmed but Mr Cullum said his offer stands.

Special delivery

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

wheelie bins had been heading to the council offices.

He said: "We had a delivery of wheelie bins on Friday last week at 8am. It stopped at the Arriva bus depot next door and by the time it arrived at our office the back was open and there was nothing on it other than the wheelie bins."

The lorry had set out from Spain and stopped in France, where the immigrants are believed to have climbed on board. They hid in the wheelie bins for about three hours while the truck went through the Channel Tunnel and up the M20 to Maidstone, before making their escape bid when it stopped.

New appointment to nurse hospital trust back to health

BY LAUREN MUMFORD

THE hospital trust at the centre of Britain's worst superbug outbreak has appointed a new chief nurse to lead improvements in patient care.

Flo Panel-Coates will join Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust in August to oversee the spending of its biggest ever budget of £58 million, which will be used to employ more ward nurses and help raise standards of care.

She was previously chief nurse at North Middlesex University Hospital and was instrumental in securing the London-based pilot of an NHS project to increase nursing time with patients.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has just launched the same scheme.

Mrs Panel-Coates said: "I am passionate about the fundamentals of nursing care and look forward to supporting and working alongside the trust's nursing staff to improve standards of patient care even further."

The trust's interim chief nurse Christina Edwards said everyone who interviewed Flo was impressed.

She said: "We are putting in the foundations to see significant improvements in patient care and Flo is the right person to take that work forward.

"The chief nurse is one of the clinical leaders of this organisation and clinical care and patient safety are at the very top of our agenda."

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust was at the centre of two outbreaks of C diff which caused the deaths of 90 patients at its three hospitals between 2005 and 2006.

A damning report from the Healthcare Commission at the end of last year blamed poor infection control and management failings for the outbreaks and forced the trust's senior managers to resign.

A photograph of a modern bathroom interior featuring blue and white tiles, a white sink, and a shower area. A large, round, woven basket is on the floor.

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Find out why these youngsters are getting hooked on fish

yourmaidstone

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ancient Egyptian to be celebration centrepiece

AN EGYPTIAN mummy which is nearly 3,000 years old will go on display at Maidstone Museum as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Ta-Kesh mummy will be the centrepiece of the celebrations and be accompanied by some of the museum's most popular exhibits in the coming weeks.

Ta-Kesh was brought to England in the 1820s and bought by Sir William Geary of Hadlow, who presented it to a local philosophical society in 1835.

Keep car valuables out of sight, police warn

NEW statistics show car crime has fallen by more than a quarter during the last year.

Police in Maidstone have seen a dramatic drop in vehicle crime, with a 25.6 per cent reduction between March 2007 and April this year. But officers are advising motorists not to be complacent.

Despite having 400 fewer offences when compared with the previous year, drivers are being told to be careful about not leaving items on display, such as satellite navigation systems.

Council tax dodger is jailed by magistrates

A MAN has been jailed for 42 days after failing to pay more than £1,000 of council tax.

Adebayo Shoneyin, of Northumberland Road, Maidstone, was sent to prison by magistrates for not paying £1,390 of tax between April 1, 2006, and March 31, 2007.

Shoneyin, who was taken to court by Maidstone council, was given a number of options to pay his debt but failed to do so.

Animal communication lecture and workshop

AN ANIMAL communicator will give a lecture and then a two-day workshop at Hadlow College.

Wynter Worsthorne, who was born in South Africa but now lives in Oxford, has spent many years developing her skills and abilities in inter-species communication.

She will give a talk on Friday at 7pm. Admission is £5. The two-day workshop, costing £150, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, between 9.30am and 4pm. Pre-booking is essential. For more information, call 01732 853272.

Girls' moonlit night out boosts hospice

BY VICKY GRANTHAM

A GROUP of schoolgirls will take part in a half-marathon Moonlit Walk this weekend to raise crucial funds for a hospice.

Seven pupils, aged from 14 to 17, from St Simon Stock Catholic School, Maidstone, will join more than 500 women for the event, in aid of The Heart of Kent Hospice.

Led by teacher Karen Weaver they will start the 13-mile walk from the community centre in Kings Hill on Friday.

Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe will start the event, now in its second year.

The group said they were looking forward to the "girls' night out" and are proud to support the Aylesford hospice, which cares for terminally ill adults.

Ms Weaver said: "It is a great local charity to raise money for."

The pupils have been training hard at their local gym, jogging and cycling. They also play for the school's rugby team.

Manicure

In memory of both her parents Ashley Hasler, from Leybourne, and nine friends, will also be taking part in the walk.

Her mother and father were both cared for at the hospice after being diagnosed with cancer.

Ashley said: "The hospice's Macmillan nurses were amazing to my mum and dad."

"They looked after my father first, who had cancer, then when my mother was diagnosed with secondary breast cancer a few years later the same nurses were able to care for her, which made her feel at ease."



IN THE PINK: The seven St Simon Stock pupils who will be taking part in the Moonlit Walk for charity

KOS Media has been following the progress of three women training for the walk.

Jan McCarthy, Marion Seymour and Julia Smith, all from the Maidstone area, meet twice a week and walk about 18 miles. You can see their progress on Yourkenttv.

An entry fee for the walk of £15 includes one month's free membership for Curves Fitness Centre, free parking, a T-shirt, wristband and medal.

The woman to raise the most money for the hospice will receive a Classic Pamper Day at the Dreams Beauty Spa in Boughton Lees, involving a facial, back massage and either a manicure or pedicure.

Second prize is a year-long membership at Curves gym, which is specially for women.

The Territorial Army will be serving bacon and vegetarian sausage rolls at the end of the walk.

Walkers must pre-book their place on the Moonlit Walk by calling Simon Fuller on 01622 790195.

• Email yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk

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STROLL ON: Jan McCarthy, Marion Seymour and Julia Smith

Natural excitement over rare beauty



ENDANGERED: A damselfly has been seen in the centre of urban Maidstone

A RARE and endangered insect has been seen in the county town – the first ever on record in such a built-up area.

Borough councillor Tony Harwood noticed the white-legged damselfly by the River Len, in the shadow of the Wat Tyler Way flyover and Sainsbury's supermarket car park, earlier this month.

The discovery of the insect, which is officially listed in the UK Red Data Book for rare and endangered wildlife, was verified by the former curator of natural history at Maidstone Museum, Eric Philp.

Cllr Harwood said: "The existence of such a rare creature living in the heart of Maidstone underlines

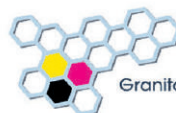
the importance of preserving the natural character of our urban watercourses and is testimony to the progressive and enlightened management by Maidstone council of the River Len nature reserve."

The insect has been sighted before in Kent but always in rural locations such as the River Beult and River Darent at Lullingstone Castle.

The cabinet member for leisure and culture, Cllr Brian Moss, said: "The council has taken a great interest in this small but important nature reserve alongside the River Len."

"I am pleased our efforts have been noted by the sight of this damselfly."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The state-led NHS was introduced in the summer of 1948 by Clement Attlee's government

A free service that gives us peace of mind

RESIDENTS living in the county town this week shared their memories of the National Health Service to mark the 60th anniversary of the state-run system.

Graham Neads, 71, Laurie Williams, 67, and Ann Quelch, 69, say knowing you can always have access to free healthcare provides peace of mind.

The NHS was introduced in the summer of 1948 by Clement Attlee's Labour government in the aftermath of the World War Two.

It was part of a "cradle to grave" welfare state intended to protect the whole of the country's population.

Prisoners

Before the NHS, Mr Neads, from Yalding, told Yourmaidstone he used to go to work with his father, a prison officer at Brixton Prison in London, and would be seen by a doctor at the prison in a cell.

He said: "When the NHS came about it was very strange going down the road to a strange surgery and doctor you had never seen before and didn't know."

"And there were no prisoners, which was even stranger."

Ms Williams, of Staplehurst, said her best experiences with the NHS were in the 1960s, because the amount of care she received.

She said doctors and nurses did a fantastic

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

job when she had her three children.

Ms Williams said: "They used to keep you in for ten days and teach you how to look after the baby and give you a chance to recover from giving birth. You were called back for check-ups and weren't sent away until everything was okay with you and the baby."

"Now they get you out within a day."

The NHS was created so each person would receive the same level of healthcare, although private schemes were allowed to continue and exist to this day.

Mrs Quelch, from Yalding said the NHS has always been here when you need it and is a great service which we should all be proud of. She said: "My cousin came to Maidstone Hospital not too long ago after being diagnosed with cancer."

"They were wonderful, they picked him up from his house in Sandwich, the hospital was very clean, staff were brilliant, it was a positive experience."

"The standard of the service has gone up and up, it's had its ups and downs but you get that with everything. And obviously the equipment and treatment has got better as technology has improved."

Her two daughters and three grandchildren were all born at NHS hospitals.

• Email yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk

Britain's health care is still envy of the world

ON July 5, 1948, Minister of Health Nye Bevan launched one of the first health services in the world to the British people, with the aim of providing health care "free at the point of use".

While the fundamentals may not have changed much, the NHS and, in particular, pharmacy has changed beyond recognition since the birth of the NHS 60 years ago.

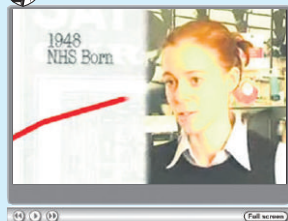
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Award-winning developer to convert listed building

CONSTRUCTION work has begun on renovating an old Georgian hospital after planning permission was granted to an award-winning developer.

Higgins Homes will be restoring the Old Hospital in Church Street to its former glory and turning it into a combination of 17 one and two-bedroom converted apartments and 57 new apartments set around a landscaped courtyard. The developers will also sensitively bring it into the 21st century with high specification modern interiors.

Sales and marketing director of Higgins Homes, Jeremy Marcus, said: "This is a very exciting new venture for us, as it is the company's first project in Kent."

The building is a former Grade II-listed hospital site and is packed full of original Georgian features.

Off-plan sales are anticipated to start this winter, with first completions in spring 2009.

For more information and brochure requests ring 020 8508 6000 or visit www.higginshomes.co.uk.

Suspect in child sex abuse case denies all allegations

A MAN accused of 11 sexual offences against girls under the age of 16 will stand trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

Bernard Leggat, 69, of North Pole Road in Barming, is charged with seven counts of indecent assault, three counts of gross indecency on girls under the age of 16 at various dates between January 1, 1979, to December 31, 1983, and one count of indecent exposure.

He denies all the allegations.

Leggat was released on unconditional bail by magistrates to stand trial at Maidstone Crown Court on a date yet to be fixed.

Try making a big splash at this year's River Festival

TEAMS are wanted to compete in a raft race during this year's River Festival.

Organisers are appealing for as many teams as possible to take part in the race on Saturday, July 26 from 2.30-3pm.

All the money raised from the race will go to the Gurkha Tribute Statue and Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

It costs £50 to enter and teams are welcome to gain sponsorship for a charity of their choice.

For more information or to download an application form visit www.maidstoneriverfestival.co.uk.

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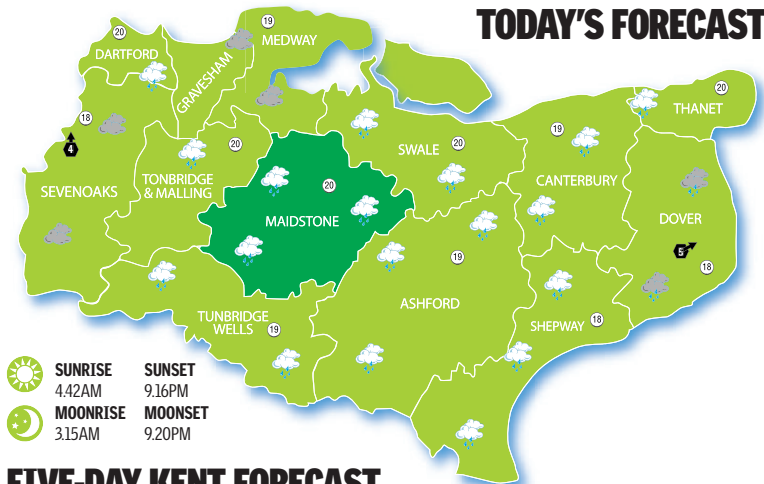
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Ashford	25°C	19°C	19°C	21°C	22°C	Gravesend	26°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	22°C
Canterbury	24°C	20°C	18°C	20°C	21°C	Maidstone	26°C	20°C	20°C	22°C	22°C
Chatham	22°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Ramsgate	24°C	20°C	18°C	20°C	21°C
Dartford	26°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	Rochester	22°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	22°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	24°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Faversham	22°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	22°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	22°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	26°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	21°C
Gillingham	22°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Tun Wells	26°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	21°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:37pm	5.9m
	Sunday	2:28pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	11:57am	6.5m
	Sunday	12:49pm	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:54am	7.4m
	Sunday	12:42pm	7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:19pm	5.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:27pm	5.6m
	Sunday	2:18pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:34pm	5.2m
	Sunday	2:25pm	5.3m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	34°C
Athens	33°C	New York	32°C
Barcelona	27°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	17°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	18°C	Tokyo	22°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	24°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	27°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	9°C



BLENDING IN: Lodges are designed to fit the landscape

Fitness centre at this new retreat

A NEW development for luxury second homes will be open for viewing this weekend.

The homes are all for private sale and set within a 23-acre park called Pilgrim's Retreat in Harrietsham, near Maidstone, with prices starting at £149,750.

They are constructed with Cape Cod timber from Canada alongside traditional building materials in order to withstand bad weather.

The park will be the only one in Kent to include a purpose-built on-site health and fitness centre for the use of homeowners.

A spokesman for management company Britannia Parks said: "The exteriors of these 'lodge style' homes have been architecturally designed to suit their countryside setting and ensure they blend in with the local landscape."

"Pilgrim's Retreat is set in ancient English woodland on the North Downs which is carpeted with bluebells in spring."

"Newly created eco-sensitive nature trails offer walks of different duration and are perfect for spotting wildlife."

Three lodges will be on show for public viewing during the two open days, which last from 10am to 4pm.

The site also includes a new health and fitness spa for members' use, which will include a swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gymnasium.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

HELEN GRANT



Q What led you into the world of politics?

A I have always had strong views and fought for what I believed in: individual freedom combined with personal responsibilities, free enterprise and a non-interfering state.

I have also always felt strongly about being compassionate towards other people and hold firm opinions on issues surrounding families, women, social justice and social mobility, probably because of my work and background.

My party political awakening came in 2004. My children were no longer babies and were becoming more independent, my business had started to mature, with a good management team in place, and I was ready for a new challenge where I might continue helping others as individuals and on a broader scale.

Politics seemed to be the obvious route. I had a brief flirtation with the Labour Party because at the time they were holding themselves out as the champions of social justice, which was important to me, but I quickly realised they were not. Moreover they were failing to deal with the aspirations of normal people in our country.

When David Cameron became leader of the Conservative Party in December 2005 I was inspired by his views on the above issues and I joined the Conservatives shortly after.

Q What do you think of Ann Widdecombe and what she has done for the world of politics?

A Ann is a woman of great integrity and strength of character, and I respect her

enormously. She has shown us it is possible to speak your mind and act upon your own conscience and still survive as a politician.

She has set an example to follow in that regard. She has also shown great aplomb in reaching a wide audience through her various TV appearances, bringing people from all walks of life a little closer to politics and hopefully helping them engage in our precious democracy a little more.

Q How does it feel to be preparing to step into Miss Widdecombe's shoes?

A I don't think anyone will ever step into her shoes – she is unique and we are very different people.

I was deeply moved that the association had entrusted Ann's legacy to me to defend at the next election.

I still wake up every day full of excitement and amazement that I have been chosen to look after the interests of the people of Maidstone and The Weald, if I am elected at the next General Election.

Q Can you explain what the process entailed?

A First of all the association sifted through all of the CVs and whittled them down to about 20 from more than 90 applications. We were interviewed after giving a five-minute speech to the initial selection panel. Of these I recall nine were selected to attend an event on January 20 where the candidate was to be chosen.

On the day of the final we had to deliver another speech to an audience of about 150 people and then be interviewed by Ian Hislop of Have I Got News For You, in front of the audience, to show how we could perform in a media setting. After a long day of about ten hours they then voted for the winner.

Each stage felt a bit like a part of an Olympic decathlon. I was certainly apprehensive at times, especially prior to the Ian Hislop interview, but throughout the entire process I felt all I could do was be myself, stand tall and deliver, and hope people would really see me and put their trust in me.

Q If elected as MP, what will you bring to the county town?

A There are a multitude of issues I will campaign for and doubtless continue where Ann will have left off in large part. Indeed I do already.

I will also strive to maintain the integrity she has shown in her time as MP and stand up for what is right and just for the people of the whole constituency.

In particular I would like to see Maidstone Hospital put its troubles behind it and regain its position as a hospital at the heart of the community.

I would like Kent International Gateway to be defeated to protect our beautiful Kent countryside from predatory developers.

I would also like to see us all doing our bit for the rural economy by supporting local suppliers and producers as much as we can.

The Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and The Weald, mother-of-two and solicitor, spoke to **Lauren Mumford** about her bid to succeed MP Ann Widdecombe

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Savour the sights and sounds of the Folkestone Triennial arts and culture event. Search 'triennial'



Double Olympic gold medallist Kelly Holmes ran into Ashford for the Kent School Games launch. Search 'kelly'



Is it a bird, a plane, or something from another world? Make up your own mind. Search 'ufo'



Learn how Medway police are trying to tackle anti-social behaviour with ABAs. Search 'asbo'



Discover a new strategy for getting children to appreciate the health benefits of eating fish. Search 'fish'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Veterans ready to take the salute at Dockyard

BY SIMON ROBINSON

MORE than a thousand ex-servicemen from across Kent will converge on Chatham Historic Dockyard on Saturday to mark the second annual Veterans' Day.

The commemorative occasion has been chosen as the MoD Veterans Agency's flagship event in the South East and gives former Armed Forces personnel and their guests the chance to recognise the service and sacrifices made by their lost comrades and colleagues.

The day will also celebrate Kent TA100 – the 100th anniversary of the founding of the modern Territorial Army.

Both occasions aim to remember the efforts of veterans young and old who served in conflicts dating from the Second World War through to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Event organiser Bill Fowler said: "Veterans' Day at the Historic Dockyard will be an occasion for the entire community to come together in recognition of all our veterans – the older generation from the Second World War, the National Servicemen who sweated through the many bush wars, right through to the nations' sons and daughters of today who are doing the job in so many locations around the world."

The emotive day will start with a morning service in the Royal Dockyard church, followed by a range of displays and activities



ON THE MARCH: The Royal Marines Band at last year's Veterans' Day event in Chatham

from the armed forces. Highlights include the Royal Engineers' drive-a-digger attraction, a climbing wall manned by the Army Cadet Force and infantry displays with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Mr Fowler said: "Many of the per-

sonnel present at the displays will have recently returned from operations around the world and this event will be the best possible occasion for the public to meet them, talk to them, and to recognise them for the often difficult job they do so

DISPLAYS AND ACTIVITIES

- Drive-a-digger with the Royal Engineers
- Field hospital display with the Royal Naval and Royal Marines Reserves
- Mine-detecting with the Army Divers
- The Army Cadet Force climbing wall
- An inflatable assault course for children
- Infantry displays with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- Food, culture and fearsome reputation of the Gurkhas from 36 Engineer Regiment

well. We may have our own views on the politics behind the reasons for our troops being deployed, but they still deserve our support.

"This is as much a day for the public as it is for veterans and current service personnel."

Veterans' Day and Kent TA100 celebrations take place from 10am.

Access to the daytime events is free to all veterans, former HM Dockyard staff and to serving members of the armed forces, with special offers available for their guests.

The dockyard galleries and attractions are open as usual.

Full details of all ticketing arrangements can be obtained by phoning 01634 823800, or by visiting www.thedockyard.co.uk.

Enjoy the sun but don't risk your licence

THE light evenings and warm weather make this one of the busiest times of year for catching those driving under the influence of drink or drugs, say Kent police.

More than 120 motorists have been arrested across the county since a police blitz started two weeks ago.

A total of 753 drivers has been stopped and breath-tested by officers from the roads policing unit.

Acting Sergeant Mark Lamb, from the force's senior collision investigation unit, said: "People finish work while it's still light and warm and it's very tempting to stop off on the way home to socialise with friends and have a drink."

"There's nothing wrong with that, as long as the drink isn't alcoholic if you've then got to drive home."

Motorists caught under the influence of drugs or alcohol can face a driving ban, a fine of up to £5,000 or even be jailed.

Police said driving bans for one of more years can lead to an increase in insurance premiums, the risk of job loss, a criminal record and difficulty getting a visa when travelling to some countries.

A police spokeswoman said: "The long and light evenings and warmer weather mean people sometimes drop their guard and take risks they might not normally take. They spend longer socialising with barbecues, picnics and outside entertaining, which all adds up to longer periods of drinking."

Two people are killed on Kent's roads each week and statistics show that one in six of the deaths is because of driving under the influence.

Since the launch of the campaign the division with highest number of arrests, with 37, has been mid Kent, which covers Maidstone and Swale. The second highest for drink and drug-driving offences was Medway, with 29.



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'Failing' schools defended

BY JENNA PUDELEK

A LEADING Kent politician has attacked the Schools Secretary over a recent "naming and shaming" of more than 30 schools said to be "failing" across the county.

Ed Balls launched the National Challenge earlier this month which included a list of 638 schools nationally where 30 per cent of pupils fail to get A* to C grades at GCSE, including maths and English.

Schools face closure or could be turned into academies if they fail to improve by 2011.

Cllr Chris Wells, Kent County Council's cabinet member for education, wrote a letter to Mr Balls criticising the "questionable focus" of the strategy last week.

He told this newspaper he felt compelled to write because "someone had to tell him".

The list included 33 Kent schools, the most of all local authorities, which was put down to the county's selective system because the top 25 per cent of pupils go to grammar schools.

"I wonder if you truly understand the damage you are doing to the morale of teachers, headteachers and even pupils," he wrote.

Cllr Wells told Mr Balls that the authority had been inundated with letters of support



UNDER SCRUTINY: Chapter School in Strood is one of seven 'failing' schools named in Medway by Ed Balls

from parents for Kent schools on the list.

"Stories that use emotive terms such as 'failing', 'closures' and 'struggling' do absolutely nothing to stimulate confidence among teachers, pupils and parents.

"In fact, each group has spoken out en masse in response to the questionable focus of your National Challenge," he said.

He called on Mr Balls to "stop this divisive campaign in the press", calling it a "political point-scoring exercise".

Cllr Wells defended the county, which he said had "an exemplary education system".

"I am also surprised you have not checked your facts," he wrote.

"The schools in Kent you so boldly announced as struggling at floor level are in

actual fact thriving and constantly improving." He said two of the Kent schools listed had been described as outstanding in the latest Ofsted inspection and another 14 were classed as good. Cllr Wells said he expected all schools listed to have exceeded the 30 per cent target by 2011.

He also criticised the Government's academy programme. "The school I am most concerned about reaching this [target] is an academy, which if I recall correctly is the Government's flagship scheme for turning around failing schools. I am still waiting to see the results," he wrote.

A spokeswoman said the KCC was yet to hear back from Mr Balls or the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Landscape feels wind of change on turbines

WIND farms are an important part of the future of power generation and will help to reduce energy bills, according to Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Kent is in the forefront of the development of wind turbines with offshore wind farms in the Thames Estuary already operating and large scale proposals put forward for an area near Marden.

Romney Marsh is the site of a massive £50 million development and controversial plans are being mooted for a scheme at East Langdon, near Dover.

The massive structures would dominate the landscape of much of the Weald and the Marsh wind farm – due to be in operation next year – would be the most visible feature for miles in each direction.

Last week Mr Brown won a narrow Commons vote which will speed up the planning process for wind turbines – which opponents say are inefficient, cause environmental damage and are an eyesore.

Some plans have been held up by objections from civil aviation authorities and the Ministry of Defence but these will now be settled outside the existing planning and appeal structure.

Protesters say this could mean objections will not get a proper hearing.

But in order to achieve a 15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020, the Government said 4,000 onshore turbines are required, along with 3,000 offshore.

The Kent Weald Action Group has been angered by the plans for a turbine taller than St Paul's Cathedral in the middle of the county.

Chairman John Webley said: "The turbine is being built in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – and one which does not receive all that much wind.

"It will be visible from as far as Sevenoaks on one side and Tenterden on the other."

Unsung heroes really are the gardener's friend

SO OFTEN when we talk about wildlife we focus on the beautiful and the most obvious.

Many of us enjoy the visits of birds and more of us feed them in our gardens than at any other time in history.

Organic gardeners in particular are grateful for the contribution birds make towards keeping gardens free of pests, but we shouldn't allow this to cause us to ignore two generally unsung heroes.

The slowworm (*anguis fragilis*), because of its snake-like appearance, enjoys something of a mixed welcome, but it is harmless and is actually a limbless lizard. Although common throughout the UK, it is very shy and rarely seen, but gardeners may be alerted to its

PAT CRAWFORD provides expert wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone

presence by discovering fragments of dead skin (grey to dark brown) scattered about. The slowworm's favourite food is that bane of gardeners – the slug. We tend to take the common worm (*lumbricus terrestris*) for granted, but gardeners really



Picture: Kent Wildlife Trust

should be more appreciative. The earthworm feeds on soil-digesting bacteria and organic matter within it. It then excretes waste matter and in this way deposits minerals in the soil.

The continuous movement also has the effect of introducing and distributing humus, thus improving the soil structure.

Earthworms live in tunnels, some of which are surprisingly deep at up to six inches.

• Hadlow College's eight-acre Broadview Gardens are open to the public – free – 360 days a year. Call 01732 853211 for details. The college offers a range of career and recreational courses, talks and demonstrations – call 01732 850551.

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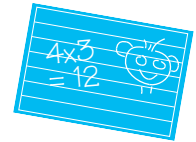
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BREAK TIME



LOOKING BRIGHT: Pupils Indie and Jamie model their New Line Learning Academy uniforms

A smart merger

TWO secondary schools have merged on to the same site as building work for a new academy gets under way.

Pupils of Senacre and Oldborough schools are now all studying at the latter's Boughton Lane site, Loose. They have also been issued with new uniforms for the New Line Learning Academy and are being taught in hi-tech mobile classrooms.

Academy head Guy Hewett said: "The transition represents a challenge and an opportunity for the young people of south Maidstone, with the challenge only being short term and the opportunity lasting decades."

The name of the company that has won the contract to build the academy is expected to be announced soon. When completed by 2010, the academy will offer an extended curriculum to its 960 pupils.

The Senacre Technology College site in Sutton Road has been sold for housing and money from the sale will go towards funding the new academy.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Trash calls the tune at junk rock concert

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

PUPILS from two schools joined forces with a charity to make a junk orchestra to highlight the enormous amount of rubbish we produce every day.

Youngsters from Grange Park School in West Malling, a special school for children with autism, worked with Rochester Grammar School pupils and arts charity Create to form a home-made extravaganza of "junk rock".

The project saw the two groups of pupils share ideas, build their own instruments from rubbish and work towards a final performance at the Salvation Army building in Gillingham.

All participants were encouraged to develop their creativity, teamwork and communication skills, while raising awareness of the huge amount of rubbish produced in our day-to-day lives.

Create's co-founder and executive director, Nicky Goulder, said: "Every Create project gives people the chance to unleash their creativity, develop life skills, grow in confidence and, most importantly, gain a sense of self-worth."

"In addition, this particular project brings together two groups of young people who know little about each other and wouldn't normally get a chance to mix."

The pupils spent the first week with Create's visual artist, thinking about the environment and constructing musical instruments from reclaimed materials such as metal bowls, tin cans and plastic bottles. During the second



TRASH CAN SINATRAS: Guests Cllrs Sue Murray and David Carr with members of the junk orchestra

week pupils explored the sounds and rhythms of their instruments, before creating original music on their newly-formed junk orchestra.

On the final day of the project, the group held a concert attended by parents, teachers and members of the community – including Mayor of Medway Cllr David Carr, and the Deputy Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Sue Murray.

Cllr Murray said she was delighted to attend the final performance and really enjoyed hearing what the pupils had come up with.

She said: "It was clear they had an extreme-

ly productive two weeks. It was wonderful to see how well they had worked together and I hope Create's good work with Grange Park and Rochester Grammar continues."

Create works with communities and organisations to reduce the effects of climate change and promote a sustainable future.

In the last 14 years it has developed training and support programmes for more than 200 organisations, from village schools to multi-national corporations.

To find out more about Create, visit www.create.org.uk.

EXCLUSIVE KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

Open Golf at Royal Birkdale

The Open returns to Royal Birkdale ten years on from Mark O'Meara's victory and the emergence of a young amateur, now the top golfer in Europe, Justin Rose.

Golf's best known names including last year's victor Pádraig Harrington* will descend on Royal Birkdale, one of Britain's finest golf clubs. Having previously hosted two Ryder Cups, the Walker and Curtis Cups, the Women's British Open and, on eight occasions, the Open, Royal Birkdale is the perfect setting for the Open this summer.

The Open is golf's oldest tournament and was first held at Prestwick Golf Club in 1860 when just eight players played three rounds over a 12 hole course. Today the Championship is a top feature in the golfing calendar, attracting all the top world players competing for millions of pounds of prize money.

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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...



Last bastion bowled over by the proverbial maiden

I'M sick of football encroaching the cricket season – especially this year. I enjoy watching this summer game, cool box by my side and cold glass of Chardonnay in hand.

There is nothing to compare with the thwack of leather on willow and the mutterings of "bad luck, old boy" as the ball struggles to reach the boundary through a slightly overgrown outfield.

Cricket returned to our village this summer after several years' absence and the first match attracted many spectators.

Wine and crisps were shared out around the boundary and after five hours of community bonding and sunburned shoulders we celebrated a drawn match at the pub. We promised to do the same next week and all through the summer.

Now only a few dedicated supporters regularly show up. Dressing for winter in mid-summer sipping hot drinks to warm the cockles is just not cricket and our lads would seemingly rather play football than play for their village.

Our captain struggles to produce a team. But, shock horror, despite village cricket being male-dominated, he has admitted a female player.

No offence to her but he was desperate, not being able to field a full team, and facing defeat before a single ball had been bowled.

Despite warning the captain that she couldn't bowl, he was generous enough to ignore that. Our secret weapon?

It's true; she really can't bowl and should not bowl again until she's learned how to throw more or less at the stumps. You'd think she was aiming for overhead seagulls and chucking superb parabolas will not a match win.

But the girl done good and was not out albeit for no runs and at only 15 years old.

An exciting game by our standards, but never one we'd win, with four very mature/overweight men, none of whom could run, bend or throw, three boys who could run but don't understand that "play like Boycott" doesn't mean "tip and run", one girl, and one man who's not played for fifteen years, leaving "no pressure" for the two remaining fit men chasing 198 runs.

A draw was possible until our highest scorer caused two run-outs leaving the tail-enders having to stay in for only five more balls. Sadly, their stumps were bowled out of the ground and we lost, again.

Each home and away team provides one umpire and one score-keeper. That week, we were short of an umpire so the score-keeper umpired leaving nobody to keep score. Despite being a woman, I understand the game and being a community-minded spirit I said I'd give it a go.

So I think I'm the new reserve score-keeper – I say "reserve" because I won't get a look in if there's a spare male around, as long as he can use a pencil or coloured crayon.

This is my big opportunity to score in the real sense! There must be someone out there who fits my requirements after I've whittled away all the pot-belly, smoking, unfit, chauvinists?

Okay, so I'm not holding my breath!

Editor's Note: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: MAID then your message to: 818000 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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Petworth House & Gardens	8 Jul	£29
Arundel Castle or Chichester	10 Jul	£22
Kent County Show	12 Jul	£32
New Forest	15 Jul	£23
Cruise, Runnymede to Windsor	16 Jul	£28
Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Watermill	19 Jul	£29
Lille & Euralille	24 Jul	£30
Isle of Wight Explorer	26 Jul	£39
Chessington World of Adventures	27 Jul	£35
Thorpe Park	29 Jul	£39
Boulogne or le Touquet	30 Jul	£25
Kennett & Avon Horse Drawn Barge	6 Aug	£32
Hatfield House & Gardens	7 Aug	£29
Disneyland Resort Paris	9&23 Aug	£59
Legoland	9 Aug	£39
Whipsnade Zoo	10 Aug	£34
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Mystery Day Trip	12 Aug	£19
Palace of Westminster & Lunch Cruise	14 Aug	£52
Alton Towers	16 Aug	£45
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* Warners Breaks - picture shown is Littlecote House - 29 Sep. *FB applies to stay at hotel only. Light lunch in cafe. - Applies to 20 Oct & 8 Dec.

yourcompetition

Do the Wright thing and **WIN** new DVD

HE DAZZLED for England and Arsenal and now he is set to bring some of his stardust to the silver screen as Ian Wright fulfils a life-long dream.

The former striker and TalkSport DJ and Gladiators host, is now fronting Wright Across America – charting his journey from coast-to-coast on a Harley-Davidson.

Now a DVD to accompany the series hits the shelves later this month – and you can grab one of five copies we have up for grabs.

Released on July 21 by Liberation Entertainment, Wright Across America is a road trip series like no other.

Joining Wrighty on this trip of a lifetime is custom bike builder Nicky Bootz, whose tumultuous rapport and rocky relationship with Ian makes for compulsive viewing.

Together they take in all the amazing sights and bizarre experiences the country has to offer.

The DVD coincides with the terrestrial airing of the TV series on ITV1 which started this week.



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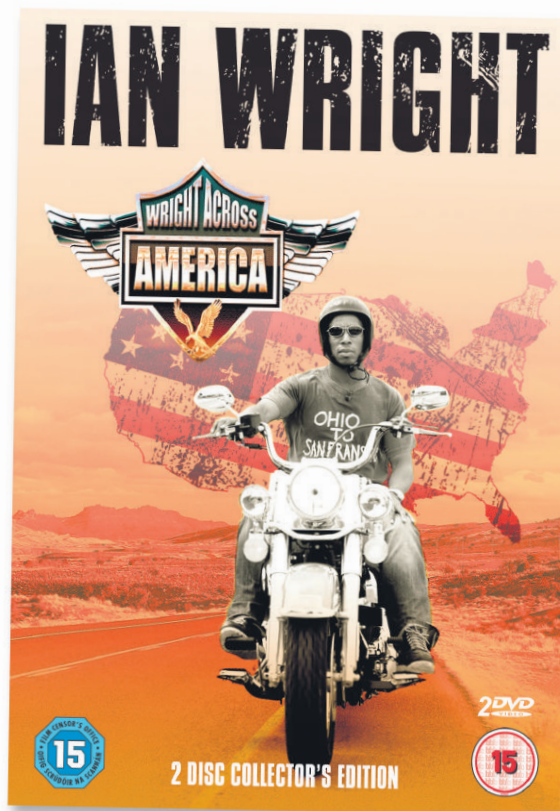
To enter and be in with a chance of winning one of the five DVD sets we have up for grabs, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

Ian Wright Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is 25.07.08

Q. The Gunners is the nickname of which north London club Ian Wright played for from 1991-98?

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TALK TIME

STEPHEN BEERLING

The borough councillor for Fant took the time to speak about his role in the community and what he likes about it.



What is it like being a councillor and how did you get involved with it?

Busy. You are here to represent the people who elected you, which means you are incredibly busy. It is a full time job. There is always something going on and many services to be monitored and checked. At the last audit we were rated excellent so you have to work very hard to maintain this standard. I've always been involved in local issues and supported the Liberal Democrats. They approached me and asked me to represent them, which was a surprise. The second time I stood for election I got the majority of the votes. I've been here for two years now.

What do you most enjoy about your work?

The satisfaction you get from resolving other people's problems. It is good to be a part of changing things, developing new initiatives and seeing things come to fruition. The job comes with a huge responsibility. You're looking after a borough and you have to make sure it is done right. There is a lot of cross party work. We are all doing the same job so we work together and the politics are kept very minimal. There's no time for it.

What will you bring to Fant as a councillor?

We've had a tremendous amount of development and we don't want anymore. I want to conserve and preserve the skyline - no more blocks of flats. I'm going to continue looking after green spaces too. Services need to be continually improved. It's about allowing people to live a decent life and not have to worry about anti-social behaviour, recycling and anything else we have influence over. People have chosen to live here because of the area and my aim is to maintain its character. By working with everybody we will be able to help everybody live the way they want.

YOUR LETTERS

Stroll in the park could become a whole lot better

ASTONISHED Kentish wildlife conservation and better designed areas to attract far better stock of a Heritage Lottery bid worth £1 million.

Past failure won't work this time

I see the council would like to put cattle in Mote Park. This was tried back in the 1950s. It didn't work then and it won't work now.

This means some of the park will be no-go areas, no dogs and cow pads by the thousand. We had to watch where you walked then and the same thing will apply now.

Personally I prefer to walk in the wider areas of the park, where there aren't so many people, as it's peaceful.

This will be where they want to put the cattle. It's bad enough having to have a housing estate built in the park, this will make things even worse.

I did have reservations about the old Mote House project, but as it was left to fall into disrepair for many years it's better than nothing.

Colin Newnham,
from Maidstone, by email.

Temporary cover is a criminal solution

The current craze for mobile police stations in rural parts of Kent is all very well - but what

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Woman, 55, gives birth after bus egg donor appeal
A woman in her 50s who took out ads in London buses in her search for an egg donor and given birth to a baby girl. Lin Weeks, 55, from Maidstone, had the baby at the weekend, and with her husband Richard, they have named her Katy. The couple had spent 14 years trying for a baby and had no other children.

Other Local News

COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages.

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if you need help from an officer and they have all packed off for the night and driven home? This

is yet another example of the lack of commitment to helping people who live in the country

and offering them temporary solutions which merely patch over problems.

Eric Halpern,
by email.

Advertising is not always a safe bet

During the past few days I received notifications of planning applications from the borough council for all the advertising boards that have been appearing on our roundabouts in north-east Maidstone, seemingly without proper planning permission.

I have been concerned for some time as to the appearance of these boards and to their purpose, other than pure advertising and to increase revenue for KCC.

I assume they are not supporting improvements to the roundabout such as better landscaping or even public art.

As a councillor I receive complaints about the standard of landscaping on some of the roundabouts and some good suggestions if money were available.

I am therefore concerned they do not enhance the landscape and in fact detract from the important attractive affect the landscaping is supposed to achieve. Of perhaps greater importance, I feel they distract drivers and lower safety on the approach to the roundabouts.

As you approach you have to consider cars to the side and behind you and those already using the roundabout, particularly at busy times when the space for entering the roundabout between vehicles can be small and time short.

I have to ask both Maidstone council, which is considering the applications, and Kent County Council, which gave permission for the signs to be erected, if risk



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assessments have been carried out, bearing in mind the responsibility both councils have for improving road safety.

There is already an investigation ongoing into the levels of deaths and injuries on Maidstone's roads, and although this is perhaps a minor point, I do believe the policy of these advertisements on our roundabouts should be reconsidered.

Ian Chittenden,
county councillor for North East Maidstone,
by email.

Politicos are beating us into submission

The spectacle of unrepentant MPs and MEPs living the high life at our expense is only matched by the hypocrites of local government.

When Blair agreed to take over the Millennium Dome our fate was sealed. His mish-mash communitarianism has brought fear, submission and instability to millions of families. The wealth of our nation has been squandered, shovelled into all the wrong pockets, be it at the top of the dung heap or the bottom. Violent disorder is inevitable when protest is banned.

The Tories and Labour cattle market mentality demands submission reminiscent of 1984 and Animal Farm. George Orwell saw the Fascists in Spain first hand and experienced the insidious hypocrisy of English democracy and local politics. Successive Governments have been immersed in Punch and Judy politics that does us no good.

Impropriety is the hallmark of party politics. Greed, and appeasement of the rich and

powerful, marks national and EU horse-trading.

We have been led into the EU trap and the corruption endemic there depends on power that has destroyed our boundaries and is forcing us to integrate countries that will bring even more confusion and conflict.

R Grootendorst,
by email.

Bill will have a hefty cost for environment

The Government has pushed a new Planning Bill through the House of Commons with grave implications for Kent.

Large new proposed projects in future would no longer be subject to democratic control.

A new Infrastructure Planning Commission, outside Government control but with members appointed by the Government, will decide on future large scale developments.

Local communities will no longer have a say. For Kent, it could mean the imposition of projects like the Kingsnorth power station, against which 9,000 people objected; a new nuclear power station at Dungeness; onshore wind farms in locations we would strongly oppose; permitted large-scale expansion of housing in Ashford, Dover or Kent Thameside.

The Government has created a new type of 'planning dictatorship' which threatens the countryside and agricultural land of Kent.

Not content with ignoring the chorus of criticism of its Housing Green Paper, Planning White Paper, new Planning Bill and Nuclear Review, the Government now wishes

to impose large projects upon the country with no regard for local opinion.

This is particularly alarming for Kent with the threat of power stations at Kingsnorth and Dungeness and housing expansion on greenfield sites at Ashford, Dover and Kent Thameside.

Our Government is set on a path of taking our liberties and undermining local democracy.

Steve Dawe,
from Kent Green Party, by email.

Call up for advice on preventative steps

I am writing to offer your readers a free copy of our booklet of guidelines on how to reduce cancer risk.

Many still think cancer is largely a question of fate, but research has shown people can make a real difference to their chances of developing the disease by making positive changes to their lifestyle.

In fact, scientists now estimate about a third of cancers could be prevented by eating healthily, being physically active and maintaining a healthy weight. This is why at World Cancer Research Fund we are committed to spreading the message that cancer is preventable.

Our Guidelines for Cancer Prevention booklet explains the key steps to reduce their risk. We are offering a free copy to the first 100 people who call 020 7343 4205 and quote the code "media". The booklet can also be downloaded online at www.wcrf-uk.org/publications

Lisa Cooney
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COME IN: Quex Park, on the edge of Birchington, will be the arena for a grand fair including dog show, classic vehicles and craft and trade stands

All the fun of the Quexpo fair

Traditional country show back after 22 years

QUEXPO Country Fair makes a triumphant return this weekend after an absence of 22 years.

Traders will flock to the beautiful Quex Park estate at Birchington, keen to recreate the atmosphere of the grand fair enjoyed by so many visitors until two decades ago.

Entries for the show have been flooding in from traders and enthusiasts and there will be lots for visitors to see and do.

Attractions will include classic cars, motorcycles, tractors, military and commercial vehicles, steam engines and craft and trade stands.

Four-legged friends will not be left out of the fun with the companion dog show. Lurch the vulture and other feathery creatures from the Many Hoots Owl Rescue Centre will be paying a visit, giving visitors the chance to see these beautiful birds at close range.

Traditional fairground attractions, live music, arena displays and a beer

tent will help to make the weekend go with a swing.

Gary Page, of organisers S&S Leisure, said the response to the event's return had been amazing.

"During the last few weeks we have distributed about 30,000 leaflets and the response we are having is phenomenal," he said.

"We have more than 350 exhibitors already and the interest in the two-day dog show is huge."

As part of their preparation, the organisers looked at Quex Museum's archives and discovered just how important Quexpo used to be to the area. Visitors will be able to see memorabilia from 1979 to 1986, along with artefacts exhibited by The Friends of Quex.

"It was like a county show in Thanet," Mr Page said. "They used to get 40,000 people there. It will never be like that again because now you have shopping, computer games and things like that. But country fairs are very popular for families."

The list of attractions goes on and on - Quex Bell Ringers will be

demonstrating their talents, while radio-controlled cars pick things up a gear. Mr Page has a 1938 'hook a duck' game that he will be exhibiting and there has been no shortage of local car fans eager to show off their treasured motors.

"For Quexpo, we have tried to use all local services," Mr Page said.

"For example, the printing was done in Broadstairs and the publicity was done in Birchington. We are trying to put money back into Thanet."

The event will run from 10am to 6pm both days. Admission costs £6/£5 for adults, £4 for children and £20 for families of four.

For more information, phone S&S Leisure on 01227 700894 or 07767 620784, or email mjdfashion@hotmail.com.

The organisers would like to thank Southern Staffords for running the dog show, along with Bike Shed and Pet Bling for sponsoring the prizes.

QUEXPO COUNTRY FAIR
Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6
Quex Park, Birchington



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SAVED SESSIONS

Thursday, July 3
Source Bar, Maidstone

TOP DJs James Zabiela will join fellow star Nic Fanciulli for the Saved Sessions this week.

The event at Maidstone's Source Bar will be a chance for music fans to enjoy an intimate evening with two of the industry's most exciting talents. The pair shared the incredible One + One World Tour last year and have been spending most of 2008 working on their solo careers. But on Thursday night they will do a mixer in front of just 300 lucky clubbers in Fanciulli's home town.

Zabiela and Fanciulli were ranked at numbers 17 and 45 respectively in last year's DJ Mag Top 100 poll. Fanciulli is already a local legend and Zabiela, with his superb scratching, looping and layering FX, is described as being in a class of his own.

Doors open at 8pm and the event will finish at 3am. Tickets cost £5/£4 and the first 100 people will receive a free Nic Fanciulli Saved Sessions Summer Mix CD. To find out more call 07739 713890 or email jeff@club-class.org.



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Popular antiques show goes live at the castle

BBC programme Antiques Roadshow will be filming at Leeds Castle tomorrow.

New presenter Fiona Bruce will be heading the hunt for rare valuables for the show's 31st series. Doors open at 9.30am and close at 4.30pm.

Advice for anyone wishing to get large items valued can be found online at www.leeds-castle.com or on the Antiques Roadshow page at www.bbc.co.uk.

Psychic could reveal secrets to audience

TOP psychic Mia Dolan will be bringing her spiritual talents to Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre next week.

Dolan has taken part in a number of television programmes and is one of the country's most sought-after mediums. From conducting private readings to giving demonstrations in front of hundreds, Dolan has become a big attraction for those interested in the psychic field.

She will be at the Hazlitt Theatre on Friday, July 11, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18.50. Call the box office on 01622 758611 or book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Saturday night is music night at pizza place

THREE soprano voices can be enjoyed at the Music Room at Pizza Express in Maidstone.

Linda Watts, Diana Vivian and Judith Buckle will be showcasing their vocal skills on Saturday. Pianist Carol Anne Wells will join the stars of Friday Night is Music Night, English National Opera and the West End.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets cost £12. Call 0845 6027 017 or book online at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Jazz on the pantiles will delight quartet's fans

MUSIC lovers will be in for a treat when the legendary Mark Lockheart Quartet performs at the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells.

The acclaimed jazz quartet will be at the bandstand from 7.30pm to 10pm tomorrow, performing for free. The concert is the third in a series of 11 free performances as part of the Pantiles' Summer Jazz Season 2008, which runs until September 4.

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Pupils from a Faversham school are inspired by art at a Kings Hill gallery

DAMSELS IN DISTRESS

Friday to Sunday, July 11 to 27
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Oast Theatre, Tonbridge



AN AMBITIOUS project by the Oast Theatre has earned the admiration of Sir Ian McKellan.

The patron of The Little Theatre Guild expressed his respect for the Tri-Theatre project, which sees the Oast linking up with two other theatres to present Sir Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy Damsels in Distress.

In an email to the production team, Sir Ian said: "This ambitious Ayckbourn venture is just the sort of thing that professional theatre would shun, but which amateurs are not afraid to attempt."

Set in the same apartment in London's Docklands, the three plays each feature completely different characters.

The directors and designers have worked closely to create sets that meet the challenges of each venue.

Role Play will be performed at the Oast, while Flat Spin will be performed at the Lewes Little Theatre in East Sussex and



Horley's Archway Theatre in Surrey will stage Game Plan. Sir Ian intends to see all three productions.

Performances of Role Play will be held on July 11, 14, 15, 24, 26 and 27. To book call the Oast box office on 01732 363849.

EVE SELLIS

Monday, July 7
Zebra Bar, Maidstone



VIBRANT country star Eve Selis will be kicking off her tour with another stunning performance in Maidstone.

When she played in Maidstone last year Selis was seven months pregnant, yet managed to deliver what BBC Radio 2 presenter Bob Harris described as the best gig he had ever seen. With her evident love of life and ability to light up the room, Selis holds the audience's attention from the first note to the last.

She is one of the most respected artists in the southern Californian scene and has picked up many Music Awards including Best Adult Alternative Artist and Best Adult Alternative Album for Out on a Wire, which was co-produced by Thom Wilson (the Offspring, Rickie Lee Jones).

Despite just becoming a mother, she has also recorded a new album Angels & Eagles. Her band includes some of the finest musicians to complement her soulful vocal performance.

Also appearing will be local singer/songwriter David Blossie, an authentic blues-influenced performer.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the night. To book call 01622 744481.



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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Be a Top Man when you walk around the festival

WITH festival season now upon us Topman has come up with a collection of fashionable footwear and gig essentials perfect for those heady weekends.

From retro wellies and clean cut summer shorts, the store in Fremlin Walk has a whole range of clothing at affordable prices fit for any man this summer.

Shoppers can buy a retro holdall for £30, plimsolls for £25, jeans for £30 and shorts for just £25.

For more information see in-store or visit www.topman.com.

Go with the flow as you uncover new style

SHOPPERS wanting a fashion fix for summer are invited down to River Island to check out their new Ibiza uncovered range.

The popular clothing store in Week Street has stacked its shelves with sexy one-piece swimsuits, cool sunglasses and funky flip flops, along with many more items perfect for the holidays.

From colourful tops and boho bags, women can look stylish but stay cool, see in-store or visit www.riverisland.com.

Bubble over with delight as you enjoy the tennis

TENNIS fans can enjoy watching Wimbledon in style with a bubbly offer from a leading supermarket.

Morrisons on Sutton Road is offering customers 50 per cent off selected bottles of Champagne to coincide with this year's tennis season.

The store is also offering shoppers bouquets of fresh flowers for just £4.99 with every bottle of half price bubbly.

For more information see in-store or visit www.morrisons.co.uk.

Keep cool retro-style with ice cream fondue

IN A bid to escape the summer heat, shoppers are going retro when it comes to iced treats.

While ice cream has always sold more during the sunny season, ASDA has become the first UK supermarket to stock ice cream fondue at its Alexander Grove store in Kings Hill. Priced at £3, the dessert contains 20 mini portions of ice cream with Belgian chocolate and strawberry dipping sauces.

The 70s favourite would be an ideal dessert for parties and barbecues.

Author returns home to sign latest book

INTERNATIONAL bestselling author Victoria Hislop will be making an appearance at Bluewater on Tuesday.

The Kent-based writer and newspaper columnist will be signing copies of her new book, *The Return*, at Waterstone's from 12.30pm. Her first novel *The Island* was one of the biggest selling titles of 2006/7. She lives in Sissinghurst with her husband Ian Hislop, of *Private Eye* and *Have I Got News For You*.

For more details call the store on 01322 624831.

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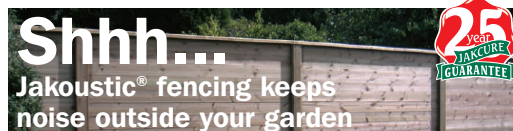
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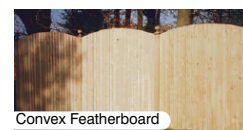
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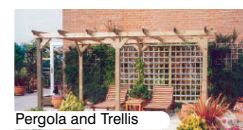
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Great bands from the comfort of your home

BY SIMON ROBINSON

AGORAPHOBIC music-lovers rejoice, for this paper's in-house film crew continues to bring the best of Kent's singers and bands direct to your computers.

Our crack two-man team – cameramen extraordinaire Paul Jerreat and mic-wielding host Charley Vines – have rounded up the likes of Updownc, Tortilla Army and Sons Of Alpha Centauri to feature on The Ether.

The popular weekly video clips give each performer the opportunity to play two of their latest tracks before being grilled by presenter Charley over their inspiration, ambitions and forthcoming plans.

So there's now no need for music fans to have to frequent darkened, sweaty rooms to see the best up-and-coming artists, paying a small fortune for a pint of watered-down ale.

Rubbing shoulders with 200 nu-rave, emo-loving, skinny-jeans-wearing 'yoof' types is a thing of the past.

Yes, you can check out the cream of the county's musicians at www.yourkenttv.co.uk – all free of charge and in your own home.

(For the best audio experience, turn your speakers up to 11.)

An Ether teaser trailer has now been placed online, showing the bands due to be featured in the forthcoming days. A full back-catalogue is also available, with guests ranging from singer/songwriter Lupen Crook and fellow Medway act Aliquot Flow to Sittingbourne-based punk/rock band Los Salvadores and Ashford's My Life In The Making.

Here is a brief overview of what Ether viewers can look forward to.



ONLINE: Updownc are just one of the many great Kent bands to be found on The Ether online music channel

UPDOWNC

Sonic fans Updownc, who take their name from a well-known cheat, have carved out a strong fanbase with their instrumental soundscapes. Their latest album, *Embers*, was launched on Friday. You can catch them at Lounge On The Farm festival on Sunday, July 13, or at www.myspace.com/updownc.

LUCY KITT

Lucy is a laid-back Canterbury-based acoustic singer/songwriter. Her charm comes in her genre-hopping. On her Myspace profile she describes her sound as "some say folk, some say blues, some say grunge – you choose".

Lucy is playing at Zoo8 on Friday, or catch her at www.myspace.com/lucykitt.

TORTILLA ARMY

Rockers Tortilla Army have managed to combine heavy guitars with strong lyrics and vocals – a feat most rock'n'roll outfits can only half-achieve.

The Canterbury-based quartet are playing Lounge On The Farm on Saturday, July 12 – or see www.myspace.com/tortillaarmy

SONS OF ALPHA CENTAURI

The Sheppey four-piece have established themselves across the county and beyond as rising stars, if you'll pardon the pun.

They describe their sound as "experimental, progressive, alternative". Add a few guitars and you're halfway there. Visit www.sonsofalphacentauri.co.uk/news.php.

YOU CAN UPLOAD YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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It's a must for all motor racing enthusiasts and offers you the unforgettable chance to see the best world-class drivers in action and to enjoy all the noise, excitement and atmosphere of this major sporting occasion.

The British Grand Prix is the oldest race in the Formula 1 calendar, with the first race of The Formula One World Championship held here in 1950. The circuit was formed from a former World War II aerodrome and is fast and challenging with famous corners and bends - Luffield, Becketts, Copse and Stowe, which test even the best driver's skill to the limit and exhilarating straights such as Pits and Hanger, where speeds up to 190mph have been recorded.

2007 World Champion Kimi Raikkonen was the winner of last year's race in his Ferrari, beating the McLaren pairing of Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso. This year Hamilton will be looking to join the elite of British drivers to win in front of the home crowd including Sterling Moss, Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill.

The Price includes:

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Midland's area hotel with dinner and full English breakfast inclusive
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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE ESCAPIST (15)



Frank Perry (Brian Cox) is a convict 12 years into a life sentence without parole. When his daughter falls ill, he is determined he make peace with her before it's too late. He develops an escape plan and recruits a dysfunctional band of escapist - misfits with a dislike for one other but united by the desire to escape.

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG)



The four intrepid children return to Narnia and meet an intriguing new character: Narnia's rightful heir to the throne, the young Prince Caspian, who has been forced into hiding as his uncle Miraz plots to kill him in order to place his own newborn son on the throne.

THE EDGE OF LOVE (15)



Desire and guilt are complicated by love and friendship in this real-life tale set in London and the Welsh countryside. Two free-spirited women are connected by the poet who loves them both. The passion and pathos of poet Dylan Thomas (Matthew Rhys) is told through the lives of two extraordinary women.

Chivalric to the end

BY KATE WHITING

WHEN you meet an actor who has been elevated to the ranks of Hollywood's next big thing, like James McAvoy, you don't expect his first words to be an apology.

But this was what happened when we were introduced at London's swish Dorchester Hotel. "When we were in the elevator, you let me go first and I felt terrible because usually, in a daft way, I let the lady go first."

"It was the most awkward moment in my life!" he says, laughing.

He genuinely seems very concerned by this momentary lapse in his usual chivalry, somewhere between the hotel's ground and first floors.

Slightly flushed, since it is James McAvoy, I reassure him all is well before we get down to the important business of discussing his new film *Wanted*.

At 29, the diminutive Scottish actor has a string of critically acclaimed films to his name and even a Bafta nomination earlier this year for *Atonement*.

But he remains as modest and down-to-earth as the young man who first came to our attention four years ago in Channel 4's *Shameless*.

It's been well documented that he lives in a modest London flat with actress wife Anne-Marie Duff, drives a 10-year-old Nissan Micra and doesn't really like 'flashy' awards ceremonies.

He even admits he was astounded when the studio cast "somebody like me" as the lead - an action hero - in *Wanted*.

"It was before *Last King Of Scotland* had even really hit and



DIFFERENT: James McAvoy stars in the action movie *Wanted* - with Angelina Jolie

Atonement hadn't come out," he explains.

"Nobody really knew who I was over there [in Hollywood] and I just thought that they were being really brave casting somebody who isn't usual action hero fodder and thought 'Well, they're trying to do something different.'"

McAvoy plays Wesley Gibson, an average American office worker who is disillusioned with life. He hates his job and doesn't even

care that his best mate is sleeping with his girlfriend.

But his life changes when feisty Fox (Angelina Jolie) reveals his long-lost father has been killed while working as an assassin for her secret organisation the Fraternity - and recruits him to avenge his father's death.

Cue a Matrix-style montage as Wes trains to be a fearless killer.

Once on board, the actor, who played the scrawny, bare-chested

fawn Mr Tumnus in the first *Narnia* film, had to hit the gym to be fit enough for his fight scenes.

"I'd rather eat dog poo than go to the gym, so the training was a big change for me," he admits.

Throughout filming in Chicago, Prague and Romania, James had to work very closely with Jolie - and she had plenty of advice for her co-star.

"The thing that I appreciated about Angelina more than anything was when she said 'Don't take yourself too seriously'. If you can't have fun making an action movie, then you shouldn't be doing an action movie."

And then there was the scene where they kiss, as part of Wesley's revenge on his two-timing girlfriend.

"Ach, it's the same as always, you know what I mean," he says, looking embarrassed.

"You're worried and you're nervous and tense and there's loads of people looking and you kind of regret having that cigarette before the last take and the coffee and the tuna sandwich that you've just eaten."

So he's sticking to his story that kissing 'is never easy, never nice' - even when it's Angelina Jolie.

WANTED
Certificate 18

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YOUR TV REVIEW

SUMMER HEIGHTS HIGH
BBC TWO, 10.30pm, Tuesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

WORD of mouth and the recommendation of friends whose taste doesn't want to make you vomit is often the best way to discover much of our popular culture.

When a TV show, book, album or event is hyped up and dressed in expectation, rarely does it live up to its billing, ITV American import Pushing Daisies being a case in point.

Often it is the shunned, untalked-about gems that make for the most satisfying viewing of all.

The feeling is enhanced by many in your immediate surroundings remaining oblivious while perhaps just you and one or two others enjoy the unearthed diamond.

Indeed, before it exploded into one of the most talked-about comedies of all time, no one really watched the first run of *The Office* when it appeared on BBC Two.

Series one slipped by unnoticed and it was the re-runs which slowly but surely drew people *en masse*.

It is with that in mind that we come to *Summer Heights High*, the best thing to come out of Australia since, er, um... oh never mind!

Think the aforementioned *The Office* meets teen drama *Heartbreak High*, with a dash of *Home And Away* thrown in for good measure and you're halfway there.

Shot in a mockumentary style, proceedings are dominated by show mastermind Chris Lilley, writer, star and creator. Here he takes three guises.

First is the young, egotistical, power-hungry drama teacher Mr G – a man for whom even the death of a student



GEM: Creator of *Summer Heights High* Chris Lilley (right) is behind some undiscovered gold

is not beyond exploitation as he strives towards his ultimate goal of having a new performing arts centre named in his honour.

Secondly we meet Ja'mie, a vacant, vain, teenage Paris Hilton-a-like whose unending quest to be 'hot' appears never ending.

But, as funny as these characters are, and they are very good, the real star of the show is Lilley as Jonah Takalua, a teenage Polynesian Aussie with Attention-Deficit Disorder and a penchant for petty mischief and break-dancing.

This portrayal of a disruptive classroom influence who is in equal parts both obnoxious and charming is one of the best comedy characters of recent years.

One critic has already called Jonah the voice of a generation and anyone who has spoken to a 13-year-old teenage boy of late may well agree.

Take a chance on this and make sure you tell your friends when you discover its sheer brilliance.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

WORKING alongside a partner helps you achieve a cherished dream. Between your passion and your associate's know how, you race through obstacles like a hot knife through butter. Don't be surprised if your sex drive soars as the weekend approaches.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A PASSIONATE encounter puts a spring in your step. This is a good time to finish any projects. Once this job is done, your lifestyle will become much easier. Launching a website or blog could draw favourable attention. There's no better way to demonstrate your expertise.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A CHILD or lover could inspire a creative project. The more time you devote to this type of work the more you realise you can't cope with a boring job. Fortunately, several new sources of income are looking likely. Don't be afraid to leave a steady gig for a job with an element of risk.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

DON'T be afraid to exercise your authority at work. Thanks to your quick thinking, you could save your company a great deal of money and extra work. Joining a team or organisation will be in your best interests. The people you meet will enrich every aspect of your life.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE making great progress at work. An authority figure is especially impressed with your progress and could offer you a promotion. If you feel like your efforts aren't being recognised go for a new job. You could be offered a position that more in keeping with your talent.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOUR powers of persuasion are irresistible. There's never been a better time to approach someone sexy for a date. The two of you generate lots of chemistry. The long-term prospects of this pairing are unclear. One thing is for sure: being in this person's company is exhilarating.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

WORKING behind the scenes brings impressive results on the home front. If you've been unhappy with the way your life has been going, start a journal. Make lists of things that bring you happiness. The more you focus on joy, the easier it will manifest in your life.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

SHARING your knowledge makes you a hot commodity. Don't be surprised if you're offered to teach a class or write a book. People respond favourably to your passion and encouragement. If you're forced to compete for a job, be a little aggressive.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

GOING on a romantic adventure is a great idea this week. Work demands could pick up throughout the next few days. You'll be expected to churn out perfect results in record time. Under the circumstances, asking for a raise will seem perfectly reasonable.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU may have to spend money to make money. This is difficult for a cash-conscious person like you, but it's vital to invest if you're going to get ahead. Fortunately, the funds you need are readily accessible. A business or romantic partner may be nervous about your plans.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

FRIENDS want you to make a bold move, and who are you to refuse? It's good to know loved ones have faith in your abilities. Still, it may be best to keep your initial efforts a secret. A new career path could open quite suddenly. Some serious discussions are needed.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU could undergo a powerful transformation. A close relationship has prompted you to take a close look at your hopes, wants and dreams. All of a sudden, doing the practical thing doesn't seem so important. Following your heart is your first priority.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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	1		5	9	4			3
9	4		3		7		5	1
8		5	1	2		9		
1	2		3	8	5		9	
4		8	7					2
			9	2	4			7

MEDIUM

	2				3	4		
					5			
6					4	3	7	8
		2						9
	6	7	1		9	8	5	
3					1			
1	7	6	3					4
		4						
		8	7			3		

HARD

2	6		3					5
3	9			1				
		8	6				9	
	7	9			1	2		
	5		8			9	3	
2					7	8		
			4				1	9
6				5			4	2

CRYPTIC CLUES

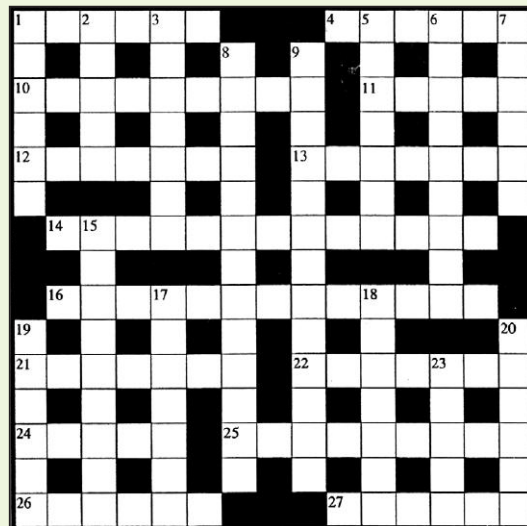
ACROSS

- 1 Shameless brother, a Buddhist (6)
- 4 One aim involving lack of social standards (6)
- 10 Said paper might vanish (9)
- 11 Language of some suburban Turks? (5)
- 12 Stick globule onto sweet (7)
- 13 Ill child's overcoat (7)
- 14 As a rule it is wonderful (8,5)
- 16 Protracted agony of patient (4-9)
- 21 Charles' sister had vehicle frame (7)
- 22 Join again king embracing former queen (7)
- 24 Where in France one gets German agreement on board (5)
- 25 Looked longer at revised tour dates (9)
- 26 Impertinent feature before last Friday (6)
- 27 Adams' concoction is intended to appeal to the general public (6)

DOWN

- 1 Some abode Gary found contained wine-shop (6)
- 2 Like Samuel to be in Indian state (5)
- 3 Purple ruler (7)
- 5 Surprisingly unable on the point of producing some misty appearances (7)
- 6 Timely shooter? (6-3)
- 7 Shares in the union (6)
- 8 Means of driving aeroplane forward? (3-10)
- 9 It's novel having fruit from the cape (6,2,5)
- 15 Hurry up, appear to be quick (4,5)
- 17 After AGM's confusion request respirator (3-4)
- 18 Stored a crumble that had been baked (7)
- 19 Imitating the sound it represents with city area head office in charge (6)
- 20 Leaving the book (6)
- 23 She's not a mother either (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Unrestrained (6)
- 4 Chopsy (anag.) (6)
- 10 Type of camera lens (9)
- 11 City in northern Italy (5)
- 12 OT book (7)
- 13 Patterned flooring (7)
- 14 Season of plays (5,8)
- 16 Younger relatives (13)
- 21 Try (7)
- 22 Portico at west end of an early church (7)
- 24 Arrest (3,2)
- 25 Absolute (3-3-3)
- 26 Lethal (6)
- 27 Palmate (6)

DOWN

- 1 Halter (anag.) (6)
- 2 Flow regulator (5)
- 3 Fallacy (7)
- 5 Japanese warrior (7)
- 6 Work out (9)
- 7 Decorated (6)
- 8 Merry-making (13)
- 9 Merciful (13)
- 15 Fictitious land (9)
- 17 In name only (7)
- 18 Confuse (7)
- 19 Obstructed (6)
- 20 Went out (6)
- 23 Destructive weapon (1-4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No42

EASY

5	7	8	4	1	9	6	3	2
9	3	4	6	2	7	5	1	8
2	1	6	3	5	8	4	7	9
4	8	2	5	9	3	1	6	7
3	6	5	7	8	1	2	9	4
7	9	1	2	4	6	3	8	5
1	4	7	9	3	5	8	2	6
6	5	3	8	7	2	9	4	1
8	2	9	1	6	4	7	5	3

MEDIUM

5	9	4	7	3	1	2	8	6
3	7	8	2	6	4	9	1	5
6	1	2	8	5	9	4	3	7
1	2	5	6	7	3	8	4	9
7	4	3	9	2	8	5	6	1
9	8	6	4	1	5	7	2	3
8	6	7	3	9	2	1	5	4
2	5	9	1	4	6	3	7	8
4	3	1	5	8	7	6	9	2

HARD

6	1	9	8	3	2	7	5	4
8	3	7	9	5	4	1	6	2
2	4	5	6	1	7	3	8	9
7	2	1	3	6	8	9	4	5
5	9	3	4	2	9	8	1	7
9	8	4	5	7	1	6	2	3
4	5	8	1	9	3	2	7	6
1	9	2	7	4	6	5	3	8
3	7	6	2	8	5	4	9	1

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No42

ACROSS: 8 Josephine 9 Oxlip 10 Abominate 11 Liszt 12 Double-crossing 15 Yeah 17 Renal 19 Fern 21 Behind the wheel 23 Inset 24 Unconcern 26 Havoc 27 Quartered. DOWN: 1 Hotbed 2 Vermouth 3 Chandler 4 Knit 5 Foolish 6 Allspice 7 Upstaging 13 Cinch 14 Eyebright 16 Adhesive 18 Law-court 19 Fletcher 20 Unstuck 22 Larder 25 Noun.

QUICK SOLUTION No43

19 Barred 20 Exited 23 H-bomb. 15 Ruffian 17 Nominal 18 Derange 7 Ornate 8 Jollification 9 Compassionate 11 Mithra 12 Ezekiel 13 Parquet 14 Drama festival 15 Grandchildren 21 Attempt 22 Narthex 24 Run in 25 Out-and-out 26 Deadly 27 Webbed. DOWN: 1 Lather 2 Moot 3 Sophism 5 Samurais 6 Calculator 7 Ornate 8 Jollification 9 Compassionate 11 Mithra 12 Ezekiel 13 Parquet 14 Drama festival 15 Grandchildren 21 Attempt 22 Narthex 24 Run in 25 Out-and-out 26 Deadly 27 Webbed.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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Barbara Coker on 01303 817072

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Actively changing your opinion

BY CAROLINE DAVISON

MY first, and only, package holiday on a Greek island some years ago hardly lingers in the memory as a pleasant affair. I remember the place as dusty, full of flies, with little atmosphere and terrible cuisine.

But almost as soon as I landed on Lemnos, an island in the Aegean Sea, I sensed it could be time for a rethink. In basking sunshine, the locals put on a welcome at the airport. It was explained on the coach ride to the resort that the islanders believe a blessing on the first foreign arrivals of the year brings them luck.

Our base for a week of watersports and land-based activities was Portomyrina Palace, a four-star hotel set on a hill above a quiet bay.

That first lunch set a standard for the rest of the week: an impressive buffet including pork in a creamy sauce and an array of salads, breads, cheeses and cold meats, finished with a choice of Greek pastries and chocolate cake.

The welcome meeting explained our options for the week ahead. Although some activities cost extra – scuba-diving, excursions, spa treatments and the offer of any official qualifications taken – virtually all are included in the price of the package, and taster sessions were on offer.

The Children's Club, keen to entertain two- to 12-year-olds, is also included in the package.

I was there for the action and my first day boasted a pretty exhausting mix: scuba-diving, waterskiing and tennis. My timetable also showed the evening as punch and dips on the



BEAUTIFUL: If the excitement of water sports are too much for you, Lemnos also has a variety of beaches to relax on

lawn, followed by a quiz night. Could this hotel get any better?

On four evenings of the week, the Portomyrina provides a buffet, while the other three are left free for those who want to do their own thing. During the week we also tested the local cuisine in the nearby capital of Myrina. Fortunately, restaurants – of which there were a vast array – catered both for families and romantic couples.

Next day, I was ready for more excitement and strode up the beach for a waterskiing lesson. How hard could it be, simply getting pulled along by a boat?

The boat set off at what seemed like a million miles per hour. Not so easy now. I stayed on for

a good few minutes, but nature took its course and a wave put me down and pulled the skis from my feet.

However, over the course of the week there was much more to try, including sailing, kayaking and catamaran rides, but by far the most rewarding for me was windsurfing. I also tried a scuba-diving taster in the swimming pool.

By the final day, nearly all my aches had gone and I felt my fitness levels had quadrupled in just a week.

In seven days, an unfit office worker had been transformed into a sport-obsessed Amazon – possibly never again to contemplate a 'fly and flop' package.

FACT FILE: GREECE

Time difference	UK + 2 hours
Capital	Athens
Population	11.2 million
Currency	Euro (1.2 to £1 approx)
Religion	Christian
Climate	Mediterranean
Language	Greek

Holiday details

Caroline Davison was a guest of Neilson Active Holidays, which offers seven-night packages this summer at the Portomyrina Palace from £539 per person, and from £429 for two- to 12-year-olds, including return flights from Gatwick, transfers, breakfast and lunch daily and four buffet dinners.

Also included are most activities, on water and land, with tuition, and Children's Club.

There are no direct flights into Lemnos from Manchester and Glasgow, so travellers make their own way to Gatwick.

Neilson reservations: 0845 070 3460 and www.neilson.co.uk



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PROPERTY NEWS

Repayment help may be at hand

PEOPLE facing having their homes repossessed could be protected by a new mortgage rescue scheme run by housing associations, under plans being considered by ministers.

The downturn in the housing market has seen a number of unregulated firms offering to buy properties from people struggling to pay their mortgages, but usually for prices well below market value. They then rent back these homes to the sellers on a short-hold tenancy, while they wait for the market to pick up – offering little long-term security.

But the National Housing Federation now wants housing associations to increasingly step in and offer to buy homes at risk of repossession at a fair price, as part of a new nationwide mortgage rescue service.

The associations would then offer the seller the chance to buy back under a low-cost ownership arrangement when their financial situation improved, or to remain permanently in their homes as rent-paying tenants.

The paper, Protecting Households, Delivering Homes, argues Government cash already committed to building new social homes should be used to help run fair mortgage rescue schemes.

Demand for new homes on the up

DEMAND for new homes continues to exceed supply in the South East despite the slowing market, says a new report from market experts Knight Frank.

The area experienced the greatest overall price growth last year, averaging seven per cent capital growth in 2007; the UK average is five per cent.

Liam Bailey, head of residential research at Knight Frank, said: "The South East's housing market continues to outperform the UK average because of the region's economic strength: strong productivity, high rates of employment and the fact median earnings are on average ten per cent higher than the national average have contributed to an additional market driver – wealth.

"Improvements to the region's transport links, such as the high-speed rail link, are also likely to be an important driver of future growth.

"Markets targeted by investment, regeneration, improved transport and employment opportunities will witness higher than average market activity."

Protect your little ones from harm in the home

■ BY NICK AMES

A LIST of top tips to keep children safe in the home has been compiled to help parents worried about the possibility of accidents.

With 40 per cent of all accidental injuries involving youngsters occurring at home or in the garden, Bryant Homes believes that by following some simple steps the number of accidents could be significantly reduced.

Jane Stockwell, the company's regional sales and marketing director, said: "Many of the accidents in our homes can be easily avoided, which is why we're committed to helping our customers improve the safety of their homes.

"Buying a new home could actually help reduce the number of accidents further with modern layouts and appliances, and a blank canvas in which to highlight any potential dangers."

The list of safety tips is as follows;

- Alarms: make sure you have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home to provide warning if a fire starts.
- Poisons and cleaning products: keep cleaning products, first aid items and medicines either in a locked cupboard or in a high place out of reach of children. Similarly, when buying these products, look for child-resistant tops.
- Electrical appliances: cover unused electric sockets. Make sure electrical items are tidied away when not in use so that small hands can't pull them off high surfaces.
- Window locks: as well as keeping people out, they keep little ones in. Make sure keys are kept out of sight to prevent temptation.
- Running baths: always run the cold tap first and add hot water to the right temperature. Tap protectors can also be bought, or fit a thermostatic mixing valve on your hot tap to prevent scalds.
- Choking hazards: clear small items from counter tops and tables and keep items with small parts that could break off away from young children. Keep items such as sewing kits, stationery and coins in locked cupboards or out-of-reach cabinets.
- Stairs: particularly with small children, fit safety gates to both the top and the bottom of the stairs and make sure steps are clear of debris to minimise potential trips and tumbles.



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MAIDSTONE OIEO £290,000

An impressive double fronted three storey home overlooking the Millennium Green. This home enjoys two ensuite to the principal bedrooms and has the benefit of a garage and parking to the rear.

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MAIDSTONE £140,000

An improved end of terraced home with a 12' double glazed conservatory which overlooks the 50' x 25' rear garden. This home also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and should be viewed.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £125,000

An ideal first time purchase! This maisonette has an entrance hall, lounge/diner with French doors to your private rear garden, offering side pedestrian access! Two double bedrooms.

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MAIDSTONE ME16 £137,500

A two bedroom terraced home with two reception rooms. The lounge has an open brick fireplace and there is also gas central heating. There is partial double glazing and a rear garden, no forward chain.

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LEEDS £173,500

A well presented and extended two bedroom mid terraced home situated in the semi rural village of Leeds. The property benefits from a through lounge dining room and study along with a fitted kitchen.

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MAIDSTONE £297,500

An impressive and spacious four storey town house with four bedrooms and three reception rooms. This home enjoys a southerly aspect and a 12' x 8' balcony off the 17' living room.

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MAIDSTONE £370,000

An exclusive detached family home in a small select development of three houses. This home benefits from a southerly aspect garden measuring approximately 95' x 58', living room.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £140,000

A two bedroom Victorian semi detached home with gas central heating and double glazing. There are two double bedrooms and a separate bathroom on the first floor, no forward chain.

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VINTERS PARK £180,000

An improved end of terraced home with no ongoing chain. The property benefits from a re-fitted kitchen with appliances and is newly carpeted and decorated throughout. Rear the garden.

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MAIDSTONE £250,000

A spacious older style home located adjacent to the south of Maidstone town centre and offering flexible accommodation to suite both investors and families alike. Three bedrooms.

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SENACRE £182,000

A nice sized family home! A cul-de-sac location, with its own driveway and garage. Accommodation comprises; entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge diner, kitchen, three bedrooms.

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SENACRE £189,995

An improved well presented semi-detached three bedroom with a re-fitted ground floor shower room and first floor bathroom. This home also benefits from an 18' conservatory/family room.

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DOWNSWOOD £265,000

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MAIDSTONE £179,995

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MAIDSTONE £750,000

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MAIDSTONE £165,000

A three bedroom home located just south of Maidstone town and available with no forward chain. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. There are two separate reception rooms, cellar, rear garden.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £140,000

A top floor two bedroom apartment in Maidstone town centre with the benefit of a lift. This property must be viewed at your earliest opportunity and is offered with no forward chain.

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MAIDSTONE £157,500

A three bedroom bay fitted terraced home with two reception rooms, 16' kitchen and cellar. There are three separate bedrooms, bathroom to the first floor and approximately 50' rear garden.

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MAIDSTONE £239,995

A three bedroom semi detached home situated a non-estate location. The property comprises of a through lounge dining room, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, family bathroom.

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MAIDSTONE £145,000

An improved Victorian style terraced home with contemporary styling but retaining many original features. This home is located in the town centre and has no forward chain.

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Hook Lane £374,000
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Bearsted £320,000
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Holland Road £239,995
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Vinters Park £239,995
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Union Street £230,000
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Queens Road £215,000
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Wrangleden Road OIEO £195,000
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Weaving OIEO £165,000
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Chillington Street £164,995
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Harrietsham OIEO £162,500
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Peel Street £159,995
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Postley Road OIEO £155,000
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Maidstone



OIRO £144,995

Two bedroom period property, two reception rooms, upstairs bathroom, walking distance to Maidstone two centre. Viewing recommended.

Maidstone



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No chain! Two bedroom house with driveway parking, rear garden, separate lounge and dining room open to kitchen and cloakroom. Viewing essential.

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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

SOUNDING GOOD?

Bubbly, outgoing female, 21, blonde, medium build, loves country walks, fun nights out, playing fun times with Box 891190 **1**

NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK?

Lively female, 26, 512, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **1**

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

27yr old, mother of 1, enjoys cooking, films, music and going to the pub. Looking for a man to have a giggle with. Box 891393 **1**

FANCY GOING OUTING?

I'm a tall, blonde half-Dutch woman, 27, love swimming, power-walking and music, festival! Looking for a lovely man with GSOH, for something special Box 893230 **1**

CUDDLY
32yr old woman, 5'8", brown hair, curly figure. I enjoy having fun and a laugh, and WLM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 **1**

EQUESTRIAN OF SPORT!
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384015 **1**

FUN-LOVING

attractive female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Box 308734 **1**

TAKE ME OUT

Single Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5'8", dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 439841 **1**

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5'12, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892255 **1**

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, WLM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whitstable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 406670 **1**

I'LL BE SEEING YOU

I'm a social, caring and sensual woman, 33, who enjoys having fun, conversation, arts, music and eating out, seeking a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 899177 **1**

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SHOW ME HEAVEN

Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. WLM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 925851 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, royal male Box 431557 **1**

SANDY SEEKS DANNY

Sim, petite, 34yr, blonde hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc. GSOH, seeking trustworthiness, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 **1**

ALL THIS AND MORE

Attractive female, 45, slim-medium build, 5'8", big brown eyes, brown hair, caring, loving, honest, seeking LTR with an honest, caring male to enjoy life with. Box 439367 **1**

LET'S TAKE A RIDE

Hi, I'm Laura, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLM gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love Box 440397 **1**

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5'6", with short brown hair, brown eyes, I have lots of interests and WLM similar guy. Box 895019 **1**

LIFE IS FOR LIVING!

Genuine, outgoing single mum, 49yr old, enjoys swimming, the outdoors and travelling. WLM male to travel and enjoy life with. Take the plunge! Box 891011 **1**

HUNK SOUGHT

Martine, 48, blonde, medium build, likes 4x4s, the gym, quad-biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket, WLM sincere enough guy for friendship/companionship and who knows. Box 894117 **1**

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Quickly caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal life. Box 425852 **1**

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford. Box 428833 **1**

BLACK MAGIC

Young black female, 49yr old, slim, enjoys cooking, dancing and socialising. WLM a gentleman for a romantic relationship. Box 441839 **1**

HERE WE GO

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 **1**

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Bubbly, voluptuous, very warm-hearted, tactile woman, 49, looking for that special someone to share cuddles, romantic evening in/out and possible relationship. Box 440879 **1**

TAKE A CHANCE

Caring, loving, attractive female, 41, size 12, enjoys keeping fit, most things, seeks romantic, passionate, tall, good looking male, 35-42, for LTR. Box 907281 **1**

STARTING OVER

41yr old, happy, caring, N/S, brunette, size 12, 5'8", likes to laugh, enjoy most things, looking for a special person to share my life. Box 897642 **1**

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782 **1**

MADE FOR EACH OTHER?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440695 **1**

THE GENTLE LADY

Easygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for life of love and laughter. Box 437913 **1**

FOOTBALL FANATIC

Dark-haired lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10", likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 439281 **1**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling. WLM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682 **1**

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, reddish. Likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 **1**

SANDY SEEKS DANNY

Sim, petite, 34yr, blonde hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc. GSOH, seeking trustworthiness, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 **1**

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TRUE LOVE WAYS

Hair dresser, 51bs, blonde female, 50yr old, enjoys keeping fit, walking and having a laugh, WLM a tall, non smoking male with similar interests. Box 441607 **1**

CARING

professional female 49, 5'4", long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 **1**

LET'S SEE...

Hi I'm Sarah, 51, 5'12, long dark hair, like cooking, going out, films, music, lots of interests! Seeking friendship, maybe something more later. Box 441393 **1**

CALL ME!

Considerate female, 51, 5'15, slim, enjoys nights in/out, films, music, walking, WLM romantic, genuine male, 49-54, with GSOH, for a long-term relationship. Box 440695 **1**

LOVING

happy go lucky, jovial, caring female, 51, 5'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, own business, WLM nice, tall, good looking gent for laughter, life and love. Box 925614 **1**

IN MY NIGHTS

Lovely, curvaceous lady, 57yr old, enjoys visual arts and travelling. WLM a genuine male, 50-69 for friendship and possibly romance. Box 441382 **1**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

SECURITY AND WARMT

5'8", 6ft, have a beautiful 3yr old little girl, very honest, caring, looking for someone I can love and make a new life with. Box 896178 **1**

REAL MAN

Honest, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLM like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 **1**

SOFA SO GOOD!

Medium-build male, 39, 5'11", self-employed, enjoys eating out, walks and cuddles on the sofa, WLM lady, 25-55, for friendship/romance. Ashford. Box 441715 **1**

LOVE TODAY

True and honest gentleman, 40, young-looking, fit, attractive, healthy, enjoys outdoor pursuits, travel, many interests, WLM the one lady to be his soulmate forever. Box 441836 **1**

PICTURE THIS:

Open minded single guy, 28, 6ft, medium build, GSOH like films, music, sunshine and romance, the beach, looking for friendly lady to complete the jigsaw! Box 890914 **1**

A FRIENDLY FACE

Attractive, mixed race male, 41, N/S, likes chatting, good company, music and films. Looking for a friendly female, under 44, for a relationship. Box 890455 **1**

GIVE & TAKE

Happy, contented, well-balanced male, 58, 5'4", medium build, not ugly! love the country, social life, pets, theatre, dining out, seeking similar male for mutual relationship. Box 442021 **1**

COME BACK TO ME

Life-loving female, 63, 5'4, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys the beach, countryside, long walks, looking for sincere gent 50-62, N/S, for lasting happy partnership. Box 441687 **1**

LASTING HAPPINESS

Young female for friendship, genuine female, 66, loves having fun, good conversation, the seaside, walks, meals, GSOH, seeking similar male for friendship. Box 441753 **1**

ANIMAL INSTINCTS

Slender, attractive, blonde lady, 68, loves the environment, gardening, reading, cinema, seeking tall gent, 55-65, presentable, similar interests, including love of animals. Box 441711 **1**

Women seeking women

CRAZY, CRAZY NIGHTS

Attractive, medium-build female, 23, 5'13, blue eyes, enjoys crazy nights out and cosy nights in, WLM female, 25-30, for friendship, perhaps relationship. Box 441715 **1**

CANDLELIT CUDDELES!

40-year-old woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people, cinema, walks, enjoys walks, cosy nights in, WLM woman for friendship/relationship. Box 894541 **1**

SENSUAL HEALING

49 years young female, genuine, 5'12, medium build, blonde, looking to meet sensual, feminine lady, up to 55, with great figure, for sensual fun. Box 438651 **1**



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

HEY YOU

Laid-back male, 25, 6'13, dark hair, slim, enjoys countryside walks, sports, martial arts, festivals, WLM like-minded female for love. Box 441766 **1**

THE BIG ONE

Easy Tiger, 30, loves going out, cosy nights in, has fantastic SOH, a laugh a minute! Seeking a lady to have gr8 times with. Box 890526 **1**

ANY OFFERS?

Slim guy driver, 31yr old, 5'6", shaven head, enjoys keeping fit, motorcycles and socialising, WLM a female with similar interests for a relationship. Box 441681 **1**

READY FOR LOVE

Stuart, 37, very shy but ready for love, 5'8", slim, brown hair/eyes, cheeky and fun, love a laugh, music, fit, seeking like-minded lady for love. Box 441777 **1**

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE

Professional male, 45, own home/car, likes cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 428202 **1**

YOU FOR ME & ME FOR YOU...

Thoughtful, caring, divorced male, 47, athletic/muscular, black hair, enjoys concerts, walks on the beach and eating out, WLM lady with similar characteristics for love. Box 441719 **1**

THE LOCK OF LOVE

Tall, slim male, 47, smart appearance, enjoys cooking, eating out and going to the cinema, WLM a female, 40-50 for friendship and companionship. Box 441640 **1**

SOUND GOOD?

Hi, I'm 47, 6ft, athletic, good-looking, honest, good company, GSOH, love music, swimming, meals, cinema, theatre parks! seeking slimish lady 30-45 for possible relationship. Box 442492 **1**

FRIENDSHIP & MORE...

Young at heart 50yr old male, silver hair, GSOH, solvent and reliable, sincere, 5'11, slimish, short hair, grey eyes, loves life and laughter. Box 890345 **1**

SIMPLE ENOUGH

Outgoing person, 51, who likes meeting new people and spending time with family and friends seeks girlfriend. Box 890421 **1**

SMILES ON FACES

Kind male, 50, 5'11, slim, N/S, 2 boys (19 and 16), likes eating out, visiting London, weekends! Looking for kind, caring lady who's not important. Box 890326 **1**

WHY WAIT?

Fun-loving male, 52, likes going out, playing golf, motor cycles, socialising, visiting new places, WLM an interesting male. Box 427113 **1**

WITH YOU FOREVER?

Hi, I'm 52, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, separated, seeking a female, 40-50, that likes a laugh and good times, cinema, meals, to enjoy life! Box 440110 **1**

ALL GOOD THINGS

52, live & work Brighton, 5'8", N/S, black, sociable, enjoys company, laughing, socialising, seeking similar lady to share the future and perhaps love with. Box 439133 **1**

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MOTORS NEWS



Renault makes its SUV debut with the Koleos

KENT Renault dealers are launching the French brand's first-ever 4x4 SUV or 'crossover' this month.

The Renault Koleos is claimed to mix the comfort and practicality of a hatchback with genuine off-road ability and incorporates 4x4 know-how from sister brand Nissan.

A typically refined yet powerful 2.0-litre Renault diesel engine is offered with two outputs – 150bhp or 175bhp.

Gary Obee, at Motorline Renault in Canterbury, said: "The Renault Koleos is ideal for those needing plenty of space."



High spec Freelander makes big impression

BARRETT'S Land Rover in Canterbury and Ashford has welcomed a sporty new Freelander 2 version.

The HST (from £32,325) features a 2.2-litre turbodiesel, 19-inch chrome alloys, leather seat facings, heated front seats, sat nav, auto climate control and a Sport Styling Pack with bumper aprons, sill mouldings and rear roof spoiler, and sells in four metallic colours.

Barretts Land Rover dealer principal Mark Nicholas said: "The HST adds an even more muscular look to the forecourt, ideal for those with an active lifestyle."



Volvo's new 4x4 baby set for October delivery

FORD's new Kuga 4x4 is just out and now we know more about its half-brother – the Volvo XC60.

Both cars have been developed within the Ford empire by blending chassis expertise honed on the excellent Ford Focus with Volvo's acknowledged 4x4 nous.

So, we can expect the Volvo to be great on or off-road, even though billed as more of an SUV (sports utility vehicle).

The XC60 (from £24,750) is available for customer drives this October, with deliveries from November.



SAFE AND SOUND: The all-new third generation Volvo V70 is derived from the S80 executive saloon so it rides better than before, is more sure-footed and incredibly well built

Generation X Volvo estate upholds the space tradition

VOLVO grew big on big, safe estates yet life is harder nowadays.

The estate market has been eroded by people carrier/MPVs and 4x4s and the Germans have muscled in with the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Estate, BMW 5-Series Touring and Audi A6 Avant.

Rising fuel and road tax costs have also weakened the Volvo wagon's hold on sales, but the latest V70 – Volvo's tenth generation big load-lugger – remains a tough piece of kit, especially in best-selling D5 turbodiesel form as tested here.

The all-new third generation V70 (£24,995-38,280) is derived from the S80 executive saloon so it rides better than before and is more sure-footed.

Despite Volvo's efforts to reposition itself as a 'driver's brand' though, the V70 is still not up with the Germans; there is a lightness about the steering and feedback, while some body roll counters that improved ride.

On the other hand, if you buy a big capacity wagon like this then practicality, comfort and a degree of economy rather than performance are greater priorities.

The car feels incredibly well built and while

ROAD TEST VOLVO V70

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

interior design is minimalist, the Ford-owned Swedish brand takes a pragmatic 'don't fix it if it ain't broke' approach to dashboard controls; you have the familiar Volvo figure outline for ventilation selection and a logical and premium stand-alone sound system – plus clear controls on the steering wheel.

Everything else is easily to hand and you wonder why some car makers complicate in an attempt to simplify.

The cabin is spacious and seating comfort excellent, despite the initial firmness of high quality leather seats, standard on our higher spec SE Lux model (£30,745).

Rear load space (815/1,600 litres) is easily extended by flopping the rear seats down; there are bigger capacities in this class, but an upright tailgate makes the V70 one of the most practical.

The in-house 2.4-litre D5 five-cylinder turbodiesel engine has been a mainstay for several years now, ably balancing power with economy. It is refined, but powers the big estate to 60mph in an impressive 8.4 seconds in manual form while still averaging well over 40mpg.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BUDGET MPVs

WITHIN a few years, the MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) market has exploded into many different niches, the most affordable being the sector where competitors are derived from best-selling vans – the Citroën and Peugeot are also based on the same vehicle. Comfort levels are not as high, but these budget MPVs are popular with cash-strapped families. Small businesses love them too, because they can revert to their van role during the week and become the family holidai at weekends. Top-notch diesel options make them cheap and reliable to run.

FIAT DOBLO



NOT the greatest looking MPV, but the Doblo probably offers more space to the pound than any other. Odd looks disguise surprisingly good handling and comfort, with easy access via two rear sliding doors. Fiat diesel technology makes it attractive too, although it is best to go for the top of the range 103bhp turbodiesel to get anything like decent acceleration with a load – it hits 60mph in 12.6 seconds compared with the entry level 1.2 petrol version's 19 seconds.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT KANGOO



RENAULT invented the MPV thing with the Espace and then the Scenic, so the French marque was bound to compete in the budget sector. The Kangoo is both spacious and comfortable with a pliant ride. It is available – at a premium price – with a lively 80bhp diesel, although petrol options are competent too. Two rear sliding doors add to the car's huge high roof space efficiency and flexibility and there are 4x4 Trekka versions if you need the extra traction.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT PARTNER COMBI



WE cheated on numbers this week, because the Peugeot (above) is also the cloned sister to the Citroën Berlingo Multispace – more common due to keener prices and higher sales when new. Probably the most refined if not the most spacious models in this class, the duo are pleasant to drive and have two rear sliding doors. The legendary power and refinement of their PSA diesels is also likely to tempt growing families, dog lovers or people leading a sporty lifestyle.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
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0404 Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 3dr Energy Sapphire Black 30000mils	£4,995.00
0404 Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 5dr Star Silver 28000mils	£5,495.00
0454 Corsa 1.4 16v Exclusive 3dr Flame Red Black Leather	£5,995.00
0707 Corsa 1.3Cdti Life 5dr Star Silver 6000mils	£8,995.00

NEW CORSA From £7995

0707 New Corsa 1.2 16v Club 3dr Sapphire Black 11000mils	£7,995.00
0707 New Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 3dr Sapphire Black 12000mils	£9,650.00
0757 New Corsa 1.2 16v Club 3dr With Air Con Choice of 2	£8,650.00
0757 New Corsa 1.4 16v Sxi 3dr With Air Con choice of colours	£8,850.00

NEW TIGRA From £9995

0606 New Tigra 1.8 16v Exclusive Sapphire Black Black Leather	£9,995.00
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ASTRA Cabriolet From £7850

0505 Astra 1.8 16v Exclusive Cabriolet Sapphire Black Black Leather	£7,850.00
0505 Astra 1.8 16v Exclusive Cabriolet Silver Lightning	£8,995.00

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0454 New Astra 2.0 16v Turbo Sri 5dr Ultra Blue 28000mils	£7,850.00
0505 New Astra 1.6 16v design 5dr Silver Lightning 27000mils	£7,495.00
0707 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Metro Blue 6800mils	£9,995.00
0757 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Sapphire Black 12000mils	£9,650.00
0757 New Astra 1.6 16v Energy 5dr Choice of Colours	£9,995.00
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0505 New Astra 1.8 16v Sri Sport hatch Star Silver 40000mils	£8,995.00
0505 New Astra 1.8 16v Sri Sport Hatch with Exterior Pack	£9,995.00
0656 New Astra 2.0 16v T Sri Sport hatch with Exterior Pack	£12,995.00

MERIVA From £6995

0505 Meriva 1.8 16v Design Star Silver 33000mils	£6,995.00
NEW MERIVA From £8995	
0757 New Meriva 1.4 16v Energy Sapphire Black 6000mils	£8,995.00

VECTRA From £5995

0454 Vectra 1.8 16v Life 5dr Silver Lightning 22000mils	£5,995.00
0454 Vectra 2.0Dti Design 5dr Star Silver 29000mils	£7,995.00

NEW VECTRA From £6995

0505 New Vectra 2.0Dti Club 5dr Silver Lightning 31000mils	£6,995.00
0606 New Vectra 1.8 16v Exclusive 5dr Pomegranite Red	£8,995.00
0606 New Vectra 1.8 16v Design 4dr Star Silver 24000mils	£9,495.00

NEW SIGNUM From £16995

0757 New Signum 1.9Cdti 150 Exclusive Auto Silver Lightning	£16,995.00
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ZAFIRA From £6795

0404 Zafira 1.8 16v Life Kings Blue 29000mils	£6,795.00
0454 Zafira 2.0Dti Design Silver Lightning 43000mils	£7,995.00

NEW ZAFIRA From £8450

0505 New Zafira 1.9Cdti 120 Club Pannacotta 35000mils	£9,995.00
0606 New Zafira 1.6 16v Club Flame Red 21000mils	£8,450.00
0606 New Zafira 1.6 16v Active Ultra Blue 19000mils	£8,650.00
0606 New Zafira 1.6 16v Life Pomegranite Red 12000mils	£8,850.00
0606 New Zafira 1.8 16v Design Star Silver 23000mils	£10,495.00
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0606 New Zafira 1.9Cdti 120 Active Sapphire Black 29000mils	£11,995.00
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0808 New Vivaro 2.0Cdti 115 Lwb Star Silver Deliver Miles	£13,995.00

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0757 New Meriva 1.6 16v Design Star Silver	£7,995.00
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0757 New Astra 1.816v Sri Sport hatch Panoramic Roof Metro Blue	£10,995.00
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0808 Antara 2.0Cdti Se Auto Immscher Body Kit Nickel Silver	£16,995.00

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0554 Vivaro 2.5Cdti Sportive Star Silver 55000mils	£6,995.00
0555 Vivaro 1.9Cdti (100) 9 seat Minibus Air Con Glacier White	£7,995.00
0606 Ford Connect T230 Hallmark Air Con 10000mils	£10,995.00
0656 Astravan 1.7 Sportive Star Silver 24000mils	£8,995.00
0707 New Astravan 1.3 Cdti Club Glacier White 30000mils	£7,995.00
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T, QUATTRO 1.8 20V T 225PS, dec 2001 single cd player, twin & side airbags, electric door mirrors, front fog lamps, tinted glass, alloy wheels, brilliant black metallic, 45,500 miles, £12,995, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

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CAPTIVA, LTZ 2.0, £22995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX, £4989, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

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300C, 5.7V8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light state gr, 10577 miles, £16950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01754 26700 (TRADE)

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C3, 1.4i CODE 2dr, 2007, 1.4i code 2dr, 10000 miles, £3495, Wilmoth's Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

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FSO, SPORT, g157cfr, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, electric windows, leather interior, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, red, 3000 miles, £10495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

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C-MAX, 1.6 STYLE 5dr, ca07bzy, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, folding rear seats, remote locking, radio/cd, sports seats, blue, 13000 miles, £8995, SMC Ford Gravesend, Gravesend, 0844 5762452 (TRADE)

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ACCORD, - 2.2 i-CTDI Ex 4dr, 978649, honda accord 2.2 i-ctdi ex 4dr honda honda maidstone drake & fletcher silver, 2007, 6000 miles, manual, diesel, 4 doors, 1 previous owners, silver, £17989, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 18000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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PICANTO, 1.1 ICE ME, 2008, delivery mileage only remote central locking front electric windows abs alarm air conditioning radio/cd, metallic black, miles, £6995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

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SEAT, 2004, blue, 44000 miles, £9995, WJ King Vauxhall, Farnham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

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911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01754 26700 (TRADE)

911 TURBO, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01754 26700 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 3.4 S 2dr, 3.4 s 2dr coupe, 26000 miles, £33995, Wilmoth's Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

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PERSONA, 1.5 GLS! Saloon 4d 1468cc auto, a 1998, electric windows, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, sunroof, remote mirrors, radio cassette, green, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710665 (TRADE)

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CLIO, SPORT 16V 3dr, gn53pzz, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 16" alloys, aluminium silver, 45000 miles, £5499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, DYNAMIQUE, y, a lovely car in vgc, auto, elec s/n and windows, cd changer, spoiler, tax may 09, mot apr 09, silver, 61800 miles, £1950, 01227 730808 (PRIVATE)

MEGANE, 1.4 EXPRESSION 5dr, 2003, 1.4 expression 5dr hatch, blue, 38897 miles, £4995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, LINEAR TID 1.9, oct 2004 g154wdc, two previous keepers, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, full service history, radio/cd player, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels, silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

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ASTRA, SRI, 07, radio/cd/mp3-cd player, air con, elec front windows, elec mirrors, pas, 17" alloy wheels, remote c/l, driver/passenger/side impact airbags, front fog lamps, taxed till feb 2009, manufacturers warranty till feb 2010, full service history, excellent condition, blue, 14500 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 01227 728087 (PRIVATE)

CORSA, 1.2056G, i607bky, finished in silver with black interior, silver 8000 miles, £8990, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CORSA, VXR TURBO, g07gpy, finished in black with interior, black, 18000 miles, £13995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

VECTRA, LS 16V, 2003, blue, 48000 miles, £4495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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GOLF, 1.9 SE TDI 130 5dr, 122871127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, central locking, immobiliser, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, trip computer, child locks, roof rails, automatic electric windows, air conditioning, stereo, steering wheel audio controls, radio cassette, radio, cd player, reflex silver, 30997 miles, £9495, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)



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Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351,

Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

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To apply, write to: The Editor, Kent on Sunday, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR, or email ian.patel@kosmedia.co.uk



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Age range of students 11-18

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37 HRS PER WK • TERM TIME ONLY
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You will work as part of a team of three technicians to oversee all aspects of the school's curriculum network, building and testing applications, liaising with suppliers or providers in fault finding and fixing. The ability to work under pressure and have a flexible approach to your workload is a necessity.

Please contact Mrs J Freeman for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008. The deadline for application forms to reach the school will be 7th July 2008.

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(AGY)

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If you are a qualified teacher and considering returning to the profession after a career break, Kent County Council is running two information events about courses designed to help you make a successful return on

Friday 4th July at 10:00 am at Oakwood House in Maidstone and
2:00 pm at Hadlow Manor, Hadlow, Nr Tonbridge

For more information call Rajmund Brent at KCC on 01622 203800 or visit www.kent-teach.com



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Favourable Package Available. Professional homecare service provider. RGN qualification required together with some knowledge of overseeing all services including nursing & domiciliary staff whilst monitoring for quality & adherence to policies & procedures.

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Heather Morgan
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd (Agency)

Oak House, 115 Sandgate Road
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Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Senior Learning Resources Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum

Post Ref: S3

Learning Support - Construction and Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/92

Learning Support - Administration, Finance and Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/93

Learning Support - Administration and Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/94

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 7th July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme



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Office Services & Facilities Manager

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Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people. The organisation provides services from over twenty service bases across Kent, Surrey and the London boroughs, employs approximately 300 paid and unpaid staff and has an annual income exceeding £10.5 million.



REF: 491 - OPERATIONS MANAGER - YOUNG PERSONS' SERVICES

Drug and Alcohol Services - Kent & Medway

Salary £34,991 - £42,681 (SCP 43 - 52) (pay award pending)
37 hours per week • Essential Car User Allowance up to £1056
Based in East Kent

The role offers a stimulating combination of tasks, including Service Manager support and project management covering quality, performance and operational issues. You will play a key part in ensuring contractual compliance and assist in service development work. You will be able to evidence:

- Extensive knowledge of services for young people with substance misuse problems.
- Staff performance management and service management experience
- A sound grasp of business and strategic planning
- An appropriate professional qualification.

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity informally, please call Peter Gallagher or Claire Goulding on 01795 590635 or e-mail peter@kca.org.uk or claire@kca.org.uk

For an application form and information pack, please contact: KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: 13th July 2008
Interview date: 21st July 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Co-ordinator - Literacy and Numeracy (Basic Skills)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

Post Ref: CO131

Co-ordinator for HE Music provision

2 x 18.5 hrs per week or 1 x 37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

Post Ref: 08/89

Lecturer in Hospitality & Catering

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/47

Lecturer Basic Skills and ESOL

27.75 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/90

Lecturer Basic Skills and ESOL

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum

Post Ref: 08/91

Lecturer in Chemistry

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 06/182

Lecturer Key Skills within Early Years and Public Services

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum

Post Ref: 08/39

Higher Education Lecturer in Building Surveying

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 07/28

Higher Education Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Fine Art Practice

Post Ref: S/HE

Sculptural Practice

Post Ref: S/HE

Early Years Studies

Post Ref: S/HE

Care Management

Post Ref: S/HE

Counselling (must be BACP accredited)

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/HE

Supply Lecturers in Amenity Horticulture

Various hours available from July 2008, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/AH

Supply Lecturers in Dental Nursing

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/DN

Infrastructure (Network) Team Leader

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £23,651 per annum

Post Ref: NTL1

Network Application Technician (Advanced)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum

Post Ref: ATA

Media and Public Relations Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum

Post Ref: 08/32

Curriculum Support Assistant Construction

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 06/201

Pre 16 Learning Support

25 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010

Post Ref: 07/17

Student Support Finance Advisor

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: LSF1

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 7th July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
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- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



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Valence School is a KCC all age residential and day special school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

We have the following vacancies:

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Main teaching scale + SEN allowance

ICT Teacher (part time)

Main teaching scale + SEN allowance

Personalised Care and Inclusion Leader

(full time Kent Scheme 7/8 £20,061 - £26,159)

Student Support Assistants

(morning & evening shifts Kent Scheme 3 £13,959 - £15,826 pro rata)

Keyworkers

(full and part time Kent Scheme 5 £16,627 - £18,288)

Waking Night Staff

(part time Kent Scheme 3 £13,959 - £15,826 plus unsocial hours enhancement)

Cleaners

(flexible evening shifts from £6.46 per hour)

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Clean appropriate licence required

(full time Kent Scheme 5 £16,627 - £18,288)

Receptionist

(morning and holiday cover part time Kent Scheme 3 £13,959 - £15,826 pro rata)

Fundraiser

(remunerated at a percentage of the amount raised)

For further information about these new roles at Valence, please contact the Staff Services Team on 07788421073 or email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk.

Closing date for all applications is Friday 4th July 2008.

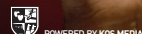
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Human Resources Officer c.£21-23k

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Working within a small HR team you will be a strong team player and have some
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With a minimum of a CIPD CPP and previous experience in a generalist role, you will
enjoy a challenge and be self motivated in keeping your knowledge of all relevant issues
up to date, demonstrating recent personal CPD. You will need a driving license,
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You will need previous experience of recruitment, all aspects of performance
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Closing Date 14th July, 2008

Informal visits and chats warmly welcomed with Lavinia Jarrett, Head of Human
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Salary: circa £40,000

We are seeking to appoint an innovative manager to develop and maintain our quality assurance procedures and
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Improvement, you will work closely with the Heads of Schools across the college. The ability to work effectively
with external quality agencies is also an important aspect of the role.

For an application form and job description please do one of the following:
• Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
• Refer to the website: www.midkent.ac.uk
• Telephone the Personnel Department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine)

Closing Date: Thursday 10 July 2008
Interviews: Friday 18 July 2008

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Although the post does not require a professional qualification you'll
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challenging behaviour and their parent(s)/carer(s).

Any offer of employment for these posts will be subject to a
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For further information or an informal discussion please contact
Ashley Manning, Senior Practitioner, on 01634 336237.

Closing Date: 11 July 2008

For an application pack or to apply visit **www.medway.gov.uk** or call
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Heavier bills for fire damage, but less are occurring

FIRES in business premises continue to cost almost £1 billion a year, but the trend is towards fewer incidents with more damage when a fire does occur.

The reduction in numbers is because of improved construction in buildings and a better awareness and management of risks, says Ray Johnson, of Folkestone-based Independent Insurance Services.

The higher cost is because of higher property values and fire brigades' greater emphasis on protecting lives rather than property.

Risk assessments are required for any premises in which five or more people are employed or where an enforcing authority requires it.

Directors can score a hole in one for charity

KENT Branch of the Institute of Directors is taking team bookings for its annual Corporate Golf Day, on Friday, October 3, at the London Golf Club near Brands Hatch.

This is the 11th year it has hosted the event, which sees teams of four compete for prizes and the IoD trophy, crafted by Crown jewellers, Garrads.

This year's chosen charity is the Variety Club, which helps sick, disabled and disadvantaged children in the UK.

For further details about how to get involved, email iod.kent@iod.com, or phone 01732 849570.

New address is bigger for finance company

FINANCIAL planning specialists Buryfield Grange have moved into offices in the prestigious Admiral's Offices building at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, to cope with an expansion of business.



TRANSFORMATION: Hadlow College has gone from making losses of half a million pounds to profits of £300,000 in just five years thanks to a more business-like approach

College profits from lesson in enterprise

■ BY NICK AMES

FIVE years ago Hadlow College was facing bankruptcy and ruin – and with it would have gone the largest faculty specialising in rural sciences in the county.

Faced with an educational disaster it was left a stark choice – modernise or go under.

Sixty members of staff were made redundant, but new blood, the loyalty and dedication of the remaining employees and a business-based approach to learning led to the institution being named Large Company of the Year at the Kent Business Awards this month.

The financial mastermind behind the transformation was former City worker Mark Lumsdon-Taylor.

The college's finance director said: "In 2002 the college had suffered up to 15 years of neglect, lack of investment and dilapidation.

"There was still a spirit running through it –

something positive was still there when it came to learning but the organisation itself was a mess.

"Mismanagement from the top had been rife and the administration was a mess. Losses for that year were half a million pounds."

A new group at the helm, including Mr Lumsdon-Taylor and Principal Paul Hannan, realised they had to make a stark choice.

"Really it was transform or fold," said the finance director.

Grading from education chiefs revealed teaching standards to be all right – but most other factors were unsatisfactory.

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor said: "We made 60 people redundant – but kept on 40 more. They became the backbone of our success and we could not have done it without them.

"Replacing those let go were people with new

ideas and tremendous enthusiasm – but underpinning everything was the fact we were now running the college as a business.

"It was a business which transformed the lives of young people – and middle-aged and old people for that matter.

"But it was still run on proper financial lines."

As the college grew its intake by 25 per cent per annum so standards continued to improve as well, according to inspectors.

"That made us all really proud," said Mr Lumsdon-Taylor. "We have shown that an educational establishment can be run successfully as a business.

"It is one which posted a £300,000 operating profit last year and one which – because of its rural based studies and emphasis on the land – is important to the fabric of this county and the traditions and livelihoods which make it so special."

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Ratcliff puts Yalding in control with bat

ALISTAIR Ratcliff helped Yalding 2nd XI on their way to victory by hitting 77 in a 59-run win against Herne Bay in the Kent Cricket Feeder League 2C.

Yalding chose to bat first and they posted a total of 171, with Ratcliff scoring the majority of the runs.

In reply, Herne Bay started well, with Paul Lawrence scoring 27, but wickets soon began to tumble and they finished well short on 112 all out.

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Alan Julian looks to displace Simon Royce as the Gills' number one stopper

Bowling attack puts run chase beyond Mote

THE MOTE'S second string struggled at Beckenham as their batsmen failed to chase down an imposing total set by the home team.

Beckenham scored 234-9 from their 50 overs which included half centuries for both Matthew Grice and Jason Bilimoria.

Danny Rowe (2-31) and Matthew White (3-41) were the pick of the away side's bowling attack, although there were also wickets for James Rowe.

In reply, The Mote struggled to deal with Beckenham's five-man bowling attack as only Warren Jackson with 66

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

registered the type of score needed to chase down such a competitive total.

Howard Waters hit 23 and Richard Usher remained unbeaten on 21 to prevent his side being bowled out, which left Beckenham with a winning draw.

• The Mote's 1st XI were comprehensively beaten by Canterbury at the weekend by nine wickets. The Maidstone side reached 108-9 from their 50 overs, a total Canterbury surpassed with ease and for the loss of just one wicket. The Mote are away to Folkestone on Saturday.



Picture: ION KUPKO

HITTING OUT: The Mote struggled with the bat at Beckenham

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE - 2nd XI Beckenham CC - 2nd XI v The Mote CC - 2nd XI

Beckenham						The Mote					
					Runs						Runs
Matthew Grice	ct Coles	b D Rowe			68	Warren Jackson	ct Carroll	b Bryan			66
Ollie Waite	ct Barr	b J Rowe			30	Matthew White	ct McDowell	b Bryan			15
Jason Bilimoria	ct Britz	b White			70	Howard Waters	b Dayal				23
Jamie O'Connell	b D Rowe				5	Alan Barr	c & b Dayal				6
Simon Evans	ct Britz	b J Rowe			8	Simon Dunk	lbw b Muditt Dayal				1
Daniel Grice	b White				5	Lawrence Freeborn	b Evans				7
James Carroll	run out				9	Matt Britz	ct O'Connell	b Bryan			0
Mark Cashman	not out				13	Danny Rowe	not out				7
Muditt Dayal	ct Britz	b White			5	Richard Usher	not out				21
Terrence McDowell	c & b Barr				4	Chris Coles	did not bat				
Dave Bryan	not out				1	James Rowe	did not bat				
Extras (6b 8lb 2w)					16	Extras (2b 2lb 8w 2nb)					14
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)					234	Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)					160

Bowlers						Bowlers					
Richard Usher	0	M	R	W		Mark Cashman	0	M	R	W	
Danny Rowe	12	1	57	0		Dave Bryan	10	4	23	0	
Matthew White	12	3	31	2		Muditt Dayal	11	0	44	3	
James Rowe	10	0	41	3		Lawrence Freeborn	15	0	54	3	
Jason Dunk	3	0	28	0		B Curris	9	1	17	0	
Alan Barr	3	0	19	1		T McDowell	5	1	18	1	

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE Old Wilsonians CC - 1st XI v Offham CC - 1st XI

SUMINDA Balage Don did the damage for Old Wilsonians as Offham slumped to a six-wicket defeat.

The seam bowler claimed superb figures of 5-56 from his 15 overs to reduce the away side to an average score of 195-8. Ben Gittings top scored with 41 for Offham, while several other batsmen got good starts but failed to go on and score a half century.

Ramakrishna Prabhu was the difference when the home team batted as his 58 allowed others to play their shots around him. Andrew Prescott with 2-45 was the pick of the Offham attack.

Offham						The Mote					
					Runs						Runs
Andy Cox	ct Steel	b Balage Don			8	Robert O'Brien	ct Shehzad	b Helyar			28
Tom Gittings	ct Frampton	b Lovelock			3	Jonathan Crowhurst	ct Shehzad	b Helyar			1
Ben Gittings	ct Steel	b Balage Don			41	Rajeevan Raveendran	ct Shehzad	b Fernando			73
Lawrence Bell	ct Steel	b Balage Don			7	Norman Ali	ct Simmons	b Shehzad			4
Jason Waite	lbw b Weeratne				22	Mark Bristow	lbw b Shehzad				0
Adam Kent	ct Weeratne	b Balage Don			30	Nigel Mullarkey	run out				0
Tony Rajaratnam	b Balage Don				22	Dan Taylor	lbw b Shehzad				10
Mervyn Brooker	b Lovelock				28	Paul Merwood	ct Sargeant	b Fernando			0
Andrew Prescott	not out				12	Greg Keddy	b Shehzad				0
Simon Hallbrook	not out				1	Samuel Evington	ct Davey	b Batley			4
Nathan Brooker	did not bat					Paul Fisher	not out				0
Extras	(11b 7lb 3w)				21	Extras	(13b 8lb 4w 2nb)				28
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs)				195	Total	(all out, 40.4 overs)				148

Bowlers					
Suminda Balage Don	0	M	R	W	
Oliver Lovelock	15	3	56	5	
Doug Forbes	11	1	27	2	
Doug Forbes	10	2	44	0	
Laki Kasturiratne	9	1	32	1	
Laki Kasturiratne	5	0	18	0	

Old Wilsonians						Tonbridge					
					Runs						Runs
Nick Bier	ct Brooker	b Prescott			31	Chris Sargeant	ct Ali	b Merwood			7
Ramakrishna Prabhu	ct Kent	b Rajaratnam			58	Nicholas Davey	c & b Raveendran				39
Suminda Balage Don	ct Kent	b Prescott			1	Dishan Fernando	not out				62
Pasan Weeratne	not out				59	Khurram Shehzad	lbw b Raveendran				13
Jayant Yewale	ct Gittings	b Cox			27	John Simmons	not out				10
Rakesh Joshi	not out				13	Giles Thomas	did not bat				
Barrie Frampton	did not bat					Harry Withers	did not bat				
Callum Steel	did not bat					Nadeem Shehzad	did not bat				
Doug Forbes	did not bat					David Blain	did not bat				
Laki Kasturiratne	did not bat					Martin Batley	did not bat				
Oliver Lovelock	did not bat					Nick Helyar	did not bat				
Extras	(3b 2lb 4w)				9	Extras	(10b 2lb 6w 1nb)				19
Total	(4 wickets, 44.1 overs)				198	Total	(3 wickets, 33.4 overs)				150

Bowlers						Bowlers					
Simon Hallbrook	0	M	R	W		Paul Merwood	0	M	R	W	
Andy Cox	9	1	42	0		Paul Usher	12	1	28	1	
Andrew Prescott	131	1	57	1		Greg Keddy	8.4	2	32	0	
Mervyn Brooker	10	1	45	2		Dan Taylor	5	0	32	0	
Tony Rajaratnam	1	0	6	0		Robert O'Brien	0.2	0	2	0	
Ben Gittings	6	2	12	1		Rajeevan Raveendran	0.4	0	0	0	
	5	0	31	0		Samuel Evington	6	0	30	2	

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A Wye CC - 1st XI v Yalding CC - 1st XI

JORDAN Reed-Ashton took three wickets and hit the winning runs to cap a fine performance as Wye recorded a five-wicket victory against Yalding.

Yalding started slowly with the bat as the wickets of Peter Bowles, Francis Evans and Marcos Aimey fell for just 17. However, Yalding arrested the slide with the middle order of James Dugmore, Harsh Tataria and Richard Field putting on 74. Wye knew they needed to start well if they were to overhaul the 133 total set by Yalding, and they did. With just 25 overs played Wye cruised to victory with a five-wicket margin. Matt Barnes and Kyle McAllister top scored with 27.

Yalding						Wye					
					Runs						Runs
Peter Bowles	ct Barnes	b Reed-Ashton			6	Kyle McAllister	b Tataria				27
Francis Evans	b Reed-Ashton				3	Tom Richardson	ct Evans	b Britz			7
Marcos Aimey	lbw b Reed-Ashton				8	Richard Williams	ct Makey	b Holmes			19
James Dugmore	ct McAllister	b Hoyle			23	Matt Barnes	ct Bowles	b Barrett			27
Harsh Tataria	ct Reed-Ashton	b Barnes			17	Stuart Wise	st Field	b Tataria			14
Richard Field	st McAllister	b Brooke			34	Jordan Reed-Ashton	not out				9
Martin Holmes	run out				0	Daniel Noden	not out				8
George Barrett	ct & b Barlow				11	Nick Brooke	did not bat				
Graham Malley	b Brooke				4	Wayne Edlin	did not bat				
John-Jacob Britz	not out				22	Edward Hoyle	did not bat				
Andrew Robinson	b Barnes				1	Matt Barlow	did not bat				
Extras	(2b 2lb)				4	Extras	(12b 5lb 5w 1nb)				23
Total	(all out, 43 overs)				133	Total	(5 wickets, 25.5 overs)				134

Bowlers					
Edward Hoyle	0	M	R	W	
Jordan Reed-Ashton	12	3	33	1	
Matt Barnes	7	0	23	3	
Matt Barnes	9	1	30	2	
Matt Barlow	9	1	19	1	
Nick Brooke	6	0	24	2	

Bowlers					
Marcos Aimey	0	M	R	W	
John-Jacob Britz	3	0	16	0	
Harsh Tataria	5	1	21	1	
Martin Holmes	7	0	38	2	
George Barrett	7.5	3	17	1	
	3	0	25	1	

INVICTA CRICKET LEAGUE Headcorn 1st XI v Bearsted 1st XI

BEARSTED strengthened their grip on the Invicta Premier League after a five-wicket victory against fellow title hopefuls Headcorn.

Kevin Richardson scored a century for the home side but received precious little support from his team mates as Headcorn made 188-7 from their allocation. Andrew Dampier was the pick of the bowlers with 2-26.

In reply Mark Hodges (73) top scored for the visitors, who reached their target with nine balls to spare.

It was Bearsted's eighth victory from nine matches and with half the season gone they hold a commanding 75-point lead at the top.

Headcorn						Bearsted					
					Runs						Runs
Simon Phipps	b Dampier				4	Noel Johnston	ct Curtis	b Mansell			24
Kevin Richardson	ct Johnston	b Horrocks			101	Stephen Heap	ct Hills	b Hughes			12
James Barker	run out (Hodges)				22	Mark Hodges	lbw b Mansell				73
Mike Donnelly	ct Filmer	b Dampier			2	Stephen Pearce	ct Hills	b Donnelly			28
Robert Sparks	ct Johnston	b Hodges			30	Richard Luxton	b Donnelly				0
Neil Levett	b Benjamin				7	Chris Filmer	not out				5
Paul Longman	b Horrocks				4	Peter Clark	not out				40
Rob Mansell	not out				2	Stephen Horrocks	did not bat				
Ricky Hills	did not bat					Jason Reeves	did not bat				
Tom Hughes	did not bat					Andrew Dampier	did not bat				
B Curris	did not bat					Steven Benjamin	did not bat				
Extras					15	Extras					9
Total	(7 wickets, 45 overs)				188	Total	(5 wickets, 43.3 overs)				189

Bowlers						Bowlers					
Andrew Dampier	0	M	R	W		Tom Hughes	0	M	R	W	
Jason Reeves	12	4	26	2		Ricky Hills	6	1	31	1	
Steven Benjamin	9	2	33	1		Rob Mansell	8	3	33	0	
Stephen Heap	6	2	17	0		B Curris	12	1	48	2	
Mark Hodges	5	1	29	0		Mike Donnelly	9.2	0	40	0	
Stephen Horrocks	7	0	38	1			7	1	35	2	

Smalling's rapid rise as the big time beckons

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

FORMER Maidstone United defender Chris Smalling is looking forward to the challenge of breaking into the first team at Premier League side Fulham.

The 18-year-old completed the move from Maidstone United this week by signing a three-year deal at Craven Cottage.

The central defender, a pupil at Chatham Grammar School, had previously signed for Middlesbrough in May, but made a dramatic U-turn and instead chose to join the London club.

Smalling said: "I am really looking forward to the challenge at Fulham. It was a really hard decision but I am glad I have made it."

"I decided to sign for Middlesbrough while I was up there training, but it wasn't until I came home and had a long discussion that I realised just how big the move would be."

Former Charlton manager Les



PREMIERSHIP BOUND: England Schoolboys defender Chris Smalling (number 4) is ready for the huge opportunity that awaits at Fulham

Picture: STEVE TERRELL

Reed, who is now Fulham's technical director, helped initiate the move for the teenager. Smalling was spotted while playing for

England Schoolboys in a successful Centenary Shield campaign last season. He has already begun training at the club and was

impressed by the facilities at the Premier League side. He said: "The facilities were one of the reasons why I chose to sign. They are excellent and I cannot wait to be using them week in week out."

Smalling, who only broke into the Maidstone United first team last year, has enjoyed a rapid rise after impressing for the 'Stones' under-18s just two seasons ago.

But he knows he will have to work hard to achieve his goal of playing in the Premier League.

He said: "The ambition is to make it into the first team. I know I will have to start in the reserves and work my way up, but I am looking forward to the challenge."

"I have just finished my exams and everything is going well. I cannot believe how far I have come in a short space of time. I mean, I was in the under-18s at Maidstone just two years ago and now I am at Fulham."

The defender has already received encouraging words from Fulham boss Roy Hodgson.

Smalling said: "I have played a couple of reserve games and Mr Hodgson had a word with me after one match. It was encouraging to hear that he was impressed."

FENCING

Fencing master's inspirational visit

FENCING master Akos Bodoky swapped training Olympic champions to inspire children to take up the sport last week.

The Hungarian fencing coach, who has coached no less than 17 world champions and Olympic medallists, visited Sutton Valence School in Maidstone.

Bodoky, who coaches at the renowned Honved Army Club in Hungary, passed on masterclass tips to 25 children at the weekly fencing club launched this term.

He will be visiting the school throughout the year to help take sessions with school coach Paul Romang.

Romang said: "We could not have asked for anyone better to inspire the children than Akos Bodoky. Fencing still seems to be very popular. I already have a group of 15, with 64 others waiting in the wings."

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A look at the London Golf Club as it prepares for the European Open

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Kapil Dev makes return to Tunbridge Wells to remember record knock

ONE of the world's all-time legendary all-rounders made a return to a Kent ground this week, 25 years after scoring the fastest ever one-day century at the 1983 World Cup.

Indian Kapil Dev blasted an unbeaten 175 from 138 balls in the semi-final win over Zimbabwe at the Nevill Ground in Tunbridge Wells. His century off 72 balls was the world record at the time and helped his team recover from 17-5 to go on and win the game and eventually the World Cup.

The all-rounder, voted Indian cricketer of the century in 2002, remembers the ground fondly, mainly because it helped towards the highlight of his career.

He said: "It is fantastic to be back at Tunbridge Wells and you can't imagine that this was the ground that I got the record."

"I do not have much memory of the ground as

CRICKET

EXCLUSIVE

BY GLENN PEARSON

we were in such a panic situation from the start. "Winning that World Cup was my fondest memory because at the time it brought kids in India back into cricket. I think the problem in this country is that people turn to football rather than cricket. I think there should be more people like Ian Botham as they are heroes and they would encourage more young people into the sport."

Future

The 49-year-old is now chairman of the executive board of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) – a Twenty20 competition which hit the headlines because it offers cricketers a chance to earn money similar to footballers.

Kapil is clearly a supporter of Twenty20 and believes it has breathed life back into the game. With billions of pounds being pumped into the sport in India and stadiums packed with supporters wanting to watch a three-hour, 20-over game, Kapil sees it as a revolution that will change the image of the sport.

"There is no sport in this world that can survive without the spectator," he said.

"If the spectator loves it then it is a great game. The same was said when one-day cricket and day/night cricket came out with older generations of players believing it would harm Test cricket."

"Let's look on the positive side, I hope Twenty20 gives something back to the one-day game because maybe in the future teams will score 400 runs in a 50 over game."

Kapil, who was the leading wicket taker in Test matches between 1994 and 1999, is a big fan of the modern game.

Although his swashbuckling style would have been perfect for the shorter forms of the game, he is amazed by the ability of the cur-

rent crop of international cricketers.

"The game has moved on quite a bit since I last played. There is quite a lot of innovation with these new shots being played."

"When I played, hitting over the cover area was the biggest thing, now we have the 'switch hit' shot and reverse sweeps and paddle sweeps. It seems every cricketer comes up with something new."

While he enjoys watching Sachin Tendulkar, Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen in action, there is still one player he regards as a true great.

"Viv Richards," he said. "He was the greatest entertainer and had a way of playing in which he would take charge on the field."

"In our own country, Sunil Gavaskar gave us all belief of how to play fast bowling when you don't have any fast bowlers in the country."

"I didn't see Gary Sobers playing and I didn't see Sir Don Bradman playing so I can't comment on them, but Viv Richards from our time was just the best. A man of his talents would love any form of the game, including Twenty20."



Picture: WWW.TUNBRIDGEWELLS.TOWN.COM

BEST: Dev was voted India's cricketer of the century in 2002



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